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SHUTDOWN

Government grinds to halt

- Confusion, frustration reign among servicemembers overseas **Page 6**
- Military has become major front in political battle **Page 7**

Navy calls for paternity leave to be increased

By TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy is advocating a change that would give fathers and secondary caregivers more time off after a birth or adoption, the service's personnel chief said.

Nonchargeable leave would rise from a maximum of 10 days up to a cap of 21 days under the recommendation, Vice Adm. Robert Burke, who serves as chief of naval personnel and deputy chief of naval operations, said in an interview with Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

'The current [policy] is 10 (days) leave. ... We'll see where it comes out.'

Vice Adm. Robert Burke

chief of naval personnel and deputy chief of naval operations

The recommendation stems from the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, which allows the Pentagon to increase nonchargeable leave across the services. The recommendation is subject to approval by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, which was not immediately available for comment on Friday.

"We don't know exactly where it's going to fall out on the OSD policy," Burke said.

"The current [policy] is 10 and 10 for paternity and adoption leave, so it could be going up to somewhere around 21 and 21 is what we're guessing ... that's what we're recommending. We'll see where it comes out."

In 2015, the Navy implemented an 18-week maternity leave policy. The policy was overruled in 2016 by then-Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who set a 12-week maternity leave policy for all the services.

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MILITARY

U.S. hosts evacuation symposium amid severe windstorm

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Taliban siege of Afghan hotel ends after 16 hours; at least 18 dead

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Third time could be the charm for American luger Sweeney » **Back page**

MILITARY

Red Cross to roll out welcome mat to contractors

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The American Red Cross in Europe is trying to erase the difficulties many contractors and their spouses face in integrating into their new communities on the Continent.

The contractor's life is often not an easy one.

When Heather Hill moved to northern Japan in 2012 with her husband, then a newly hired contractor at Misawa Air Base, it was the start of the most isolating year of her life.

The family had no sponsor and was denied membership in some base organizations because of their employment status. The housing office wouldn't give the couple a list of approved off-base Realtors, and they couldn't get a document notarized at the legal office.

"When I would meet people, the first question would be, 'Oh, who's your husband. What's his rank?'" she said. "I would say he's a contractor. 'Oh, OK, goodbye.'" She is now trying to navigate life as a contractor's spouse at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where her husband started a new cybersecurity job in November.

On Tuesday, the Red Cross office at Ramstein is holding "the first-ever meet-and-greet for con-

tractors and their spouses," said Christine Spalding, a volunteer partner for the American Red Cross Service to Armed Forces European Division. The open house begins at 10 a.m. on the fourth floor in Building 2118.

'We want them to know they can find support and help at any other member of the community.'

Christine Spalding

American Red Cross
Service to Armed
Forces European
Division

matter."

The Defense Department uses private contractors overseas to provide support and other services, freeing up troops to do the mission and saving money by not

contractors need to be taken care of just like military families and military members," said Spalding, an Air Force veteran and herself a contractor's spouse.

"They need to be welcomed into the community and made to feel like they



GABRIELA GARCIA-HERRE/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

On Tuesday, the American Red Cross office on Ramstein Air Base, Germany, will hold a meet-and-greet for contractors and their spouses to help them integrate into their new communities.

having to pay for a contractor and his or her family's living expenses, as they would for military personnel or Defense Department civilians.

How many contractors are employed at U.S. military bases in Europe isn't known. Each service component tracks contractor numbers, but "nothing is streamlined," said a spokeswoman for U.S. European Command.

Some of the larger companies that employ defense contractors in Europe include General Dynamics and Boeing Co.

Some companies may send only one or two contractors to a base — as was the case for Hill's husband at Misawa. That means there is no one to support them when they arrive.

"Everybody just assumes they're taken care of," Spalding said. "We're not told we have to go to a newcomer's briefing; we're not given a sponsor. Not everyone has the depth in their organization where they can do all that."

Spalding said the Red Cross is a

good resource for contractors because, like contractors, the organization is spread across Europe, with offices at U.S. military bases in Germany, Italy, Spain and England. The Red Cross overseas also has offices in Iraq, Kuwait and in Africa. Other Red Cross offices in Europe are planning similar open houses for contractors and their families, she said.

"We want them to know they can find support and help at the Red Cross just like any other member of the community," she said.

Hill, who is a part-time Red Cross volunteer, welcomes the support. When she heard about the initiative, "I almost cried," she said, "because it's lonely."

Spalding said she talked about the Ramstein open house on American Forces Network radio on Thursday. In less than 24 hours, she said, she'd received 17 calls from contractors and their family members thanking her for "acknowledging that this is an issue."

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Army launches survey to rate family housing

The Army is conducting a service-wide survey to determine how families living in on-base and off-base leased housing rate their accommodations and the service's housing office.

The survey, conducted by the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff of Installation Management and the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, was launched Wednesday. In coming weeks, one resident in each household should receive an email with a link to the survey.

Everyone will have until Feb. 22 to submit answers, which are confidential.

Navy to pay for town's water filtration system

COUPEVILLE, Wash. — The U.S. Navy will pay for a filter system to protect a Washington town's water supply from chemicals found in firefighting foam used at a nearby airstrip.

The Seattle Times reported that the initiative is part of a broader Defense Department nationwide effort to track pollution plumes from firefighting foam used at military installations and offer assistance when the chemicals have been detected in drinking water supplies.

The Navy will pay to design, install and operate a filter system to treat perfluorooctyl and polyfluorooctyl substances. One of those chemicals was found in a town drinking water well.

Coupeville Mayor Molly Hughes said the town's well water has always been safe to drink but "the continued ability of this well to provide clean water requires additional measures to protect it from PFAS compounds."

From staff and wire reports

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EUROPE

US, allies practice airlifts amid gusting winds

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — With winds gusting to more than 50 miles per hour on the tarmac, even the medical mannequins strapped to the litters looked cold with their bare plastic feet sticking out.

As windstorm Friederike wreaked havoc across Germany on Thursday, downing trees and grounding flights and rail service, U.S. troops and their counterparts from 12 European and African nations stuck to the training plan.

The wind couldn't thwart the first-ever African and European aeromedical evacuation symposium, hosted by the Surgeon General's office of U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa.

More than 40 flight nurses, physicians, pilots and planners from NATO and partner countries shared their experiences in airlifting wounded and sick patients on military aircraft. Despite the range of flying emergency rooms used by each of the nations — from the roomy C-17 to helicopters and single-engine turboprops — there was a lot of common ground, officials said.

"It's a great way to build relationships because we share the same concerns, we share the same goals, and our focus is our patients," said Col. Jill Scheckel, USAFE-AFAFRICA command surgeon.

The four-day symposium ended Friday. Countries from Africa joining the U.S. were Angola, Gabon, Nigeria and Zambia. From Europe, the participating nations were Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Ukraine.

"It's the first time that USAFE-AFAFRICA has broken the line between the European and African continents," said Col. Ricardo Trimillos, the command's international affairs division chief.

"We've been doing individual training and individual symposiums in Europe with Europeans and in Africa with Africans, but this is part of us recognizing all of this activity is global," he said.

The information exchange wasn't one-sided, officials said. Nigeria and Ukraine, each of which is dealing with an active conflict within its borders, shared lessons on "how they are adapting to not having enough resources, not enough people" to meet the demands of a "very active rescue mission," Trimillos said.

"We can apply that to our own procedures," he said.



MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Albanian airmen load a simulated casualty onto a C-130J during a training scenario at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Thursday.

‘It's the first time that USAFE-AFAFRICA has broken the line between the European and African continents.’

Col. Ricardo Trimillos

U.S. Air Forces in Europe–Air Forces Africa international affairs division chief

Ramstein Air Base's 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron supports both the European and African theaters, said Maj. Jeremy Hicks, a clinical nurse specialist with the squadron. The unit is involved in six to seven missions a month in Europe and about one a month in Africa, he said. Those numbers rise and fall, depending on operations.

The focus of the week was on standardizing procedures for evacuating patients from a humanitarian crisis. But the same

skills can be applied to combat operations, Trimillos said. Participants spent time Thursday sheltered from the wind inside the belly of a Ramstein-based C-130J. The aircraft is typically used to ferry passengers and cargo all over Europe and Africa but can be reconfigured to accept a patient load of up to 90 litters.

Small groups from each country practiced lifting dummies from the tarmac and loading them inside the plane, where the litters were stacked and secured in rows.

They saw how U.S. airmen communicate every step of the way, from "ready on the lift" to "come to me." The latter was repeated to guide the litter-carrying crew to the proper place inside the plane.

"It seems like a simple thing," Trimillos said of patient loading, "but when you're talking about injured people, neck injuries or whatever, it's a big deal."

Participants practiced similar procedures inside a Romanian C-27. Smaller than the C-130, the cargo plane also can be reconfigured for aeromedical evacuation.

Zambia is expecting to get delivery of more than one C-27 later this year, said Col. Alephir Phiri, the staff officer for training in Zambia's air transport command.

"It's special that we're seeing it now in person," he said.

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Courtesy of Polizei Headquarters Oberfranken, Germany

Firefighters work at the scene where a U.S. Army Humvee caught fire while being towed on Bundesautobahn A93, near Regnitzlosau, Germany, in Bavaria on Thursday morning.

US Army Humvee bursts into flames on Bavarian roadway

Stars and Stripes

A Humvee being towed for repairs on a major roadway in Bavaria, Germany, suddenly burst into flames and smashed into a guardrail before coming to a stop, German police said.

There were no injuries in the early Thursday morning incident, police said Friday.

The Humvee broke down on Autobahn 93. Soldiers were towing it between Hof-Nord and Regnitzlosau for servicing at a U.S. facility in Grafenwoehr when its axle overheated and ignited the vehicle.

The soldiers disconnected the burning vehicle to keep it from igniting the tow vehicle. Once

the burning Humvee was free, it rolled into the middle of traffic and hit a guardrail.

Damage to the Humvee was estimated at about \$98,000, police said. The accident shut down traffic in both directions.

The incident is the third this month for the military in southern Germany. Last week, a fuel truck crashed while making a delivery. The week before that, German police stopped a U.S. Army convoy hauling self-propelled howitzers on Autobahn 4 because the trailers were overloaded.

Army officials were not immediately available for comment late Friday.

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MILITARY

Japan chides US military for helicopter flights over school

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese government officials have chastised their U.S. allies after Marine Corps helicopters reportedly flew over an Okinawan elementary school where a CH-53E Super Stallion's window fell last month.

A UH-1Y Venom and two AH-1Z Vipers were spotted above Futenna Daini Elementary School on Thursday afternoon, said a spokesman for the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which is part of Japan's Defense Ministry. The school is adjacent to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Students were in class at the time, school officials said.

"It's deplorable that this has happened even though we've requested firmly that the U.S. not fly above the school," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters Thursday. On Friday, he said he would continue to urge the U.S. to not fly over the school.

Officials had been watching for military aircraft over Okinawan schools after a Dec. 13 incident in which a Super Stallion's window inexplicably became separated

from the aircraft and landed on a Futenna Daini sports field while schoolchildren were playing.

Footage from security cameras set up after that incident reportedly caught Thursday's flyover.

Speaking to reporters Thursday, Defense Minister Tsumori Onodera called the flyover "extremely regrettable" and said he had lodged a complaint with U.S. Forces Japan's deputy commander, Maj. Gen. Charles Chiarotti.

Defense Ministry officials also lodged protests Thursday with U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Jerry Martinez and Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, III Marine Expeditionary Force commander.

Onodera said the U.S. military denied the flyover took place when asked about it by his office. Marine officials did not respond to Stars and Stripes' requests for comment Friday.

Onodera added that he thought Martinez and Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis — who apologized to Japan earlier this month for recent aircraft mishaps — understood that refraining from flying over Okinawan schools is an important issue.

Onodera said he would urge the U.S. military to instruct all units



Screenshot from NHK

A screenshot from an NHK broadcast shows military helicopters that reportedly flew over an Okinawan elementary school near Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Thursday.

not to fly over the elementary school and would ask for specific reasons for Thursday's flyover, a Defense Ministry spokesman said.

Okinawa's anti-base Gov. Takeshi Onaga said he was outraged by the incident, according to the Asahi newspaper. Onaga plans to visit Tokyo to lodge a protest with the Japanese government.

Officials from the Ginowan city board of education said they have had lingering safety concerns after the window fell and had asked the U.S. military on Okinawa not to fly over the school, a spokesman said.

The school held an evacuation

drill before the flyover Thursday and hasn't used the playground since the window fell.

"We want to be able to hold classes in a normal and quiet environment," the spokesman said. "We just want them to not fly. That is all we want."

Thursday's flyover is the latest aviation mishap to strain relations between the two allies regarding the U.S. military's presence on the southern island prefecture.

The falling-window incident on Dec. 13 was followed by emergency landings by Marine helicopters on Jan. 6 and Jan. 8. On Dec. 7, a plastic part thought to belong to a U.S. military helicopter was found on the roof of an Okinawan

day care facility.

In October, a 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Super Stallion made an emergency landing in a farmer's field outside Okinawa's Northern Training Area after an inflight fire. The aircraft was an almost total loss.

The incidents stand to embolden Okinawa's small but potent protest movement, which is backed by Onaga, and could lead to renewed demonstrations against U.S. military aircraft and plans to relocate Marine air operations within the prefecture, from Futenma to Camp Schwab in Okinawa's remote north.

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Security risks unresolved in new military aircraft tracking system

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department and Federal Aviation Administration have yet to resolve security risks to military aircraft posed by a new tracking system required to be implemented in less than two years, according to a government audit released Thursday.

Although those agencies and other organizations have identified the system's risks to military security and missions over the past decade, approved solutions remain an "urgent need," the Government Accountability Office said in the public version of a classified report.

All aircraft flying in domestic airspace must have the technology installed by Jan. 1, 2020.

Up to now, the Defense Department and the FAA have focused on how to equip military aircraft with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast Out technology, with much less thought given to solving or mitigating security risks, the GAO said.

In 2010, the FAA issued a final rule requiring all civilian and military aircraft flying within U.S. airspace to be equipped with ADS-B Out, which uses satellites to transmit flight information to enabled receivers. ADS-B Out is a key component of the FAA's ongoing modernization effort to switch from a ground-based radar system to a satellite system for aircraft position reporting, navigation and digital

communications.

ADS-B Out employs an aircraft's avionics systems to broadcast position, altitude, velocity and other data to receivers on the ground, air or space, the GAO said.

It is part of the FAA's so-called NextGen system intended to increase safety, reduce delays, decrease costs for airlines and passengers and cut down carbon emissions.

However, the NextGen system's reliance on internet protocols, digital communication and GPS creates a greater risk of it failing or being hacked, the GAO said.

As far back as 2008, the Defense Department had notified the FAA that military aircraft would need "special accommodations" due to national security concerns, in areas such as sensitive missions and electronic warfare vulnerabilities, the GAO said.

In 2010, the FAA notified the DOD, the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies that it would collaborate with each of them to produce agreements to accommodate national defense requirements.

Since that time, the DOD has identified steps that could be taken to mitigate risks, such as "masking DOD aircraft identifiers, maintaining current inventory of primary-surveillance radars, allowing pilots to turn off ADS-B broadcasts, and seeking an exemption from installing ADS-B technology on select military aircraft (for example, fighter and bomber aircraft)," the GAO said.

As of last June, the DOD and FAA have

not approved any solutions to risks, the GAO said.

The risks to military aircraft arise from information broadcast by the ADS-B being illicitly intercepted or the system's vulnerabilities being exploited by cyberattacks.

The GAO cites a 2015 assessment by the Rand Corp. that found "broadcasting of detailed and unencrypted position data for fighter aircraft, in particular for a stealth aircraft such as the F-22, may present an operations security risk."

The Rand report noted that information about the F-22's exact position is classified Secret, and thus its unauthorized disclosure could cause "serious damage to national security."

The DOD has informed the FAA that ADS-B Out technology could allow third parties to identify military aircraft flying "sensitive missions," such as "low-observable surveillance, combat air patrol, counter-drug, counter-terrorism, and key personnel transport," the GAO said.

Some military aircraft are equipped with an earlier generation of transponders that could potentially allow a third party to track altitude. ADS-B Out, however, will provide much more detail, such as an aircraft's precise location, velocity and airframe dimension, the GAO said.

"ADS-B technology better enables individuals and groups to track flights in real time and use computer programs to log ADS-B transmissions over time," the GAO

said. "Therefore, individuals or groups could observe flight paths in detail, identify patterns-of-life, or counter or exploit DOD operations."

The GAO cites a 2015 article by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers concluding that adversaries could hack in and insert bogus ADS-B messages that create "ghost" aircraft on the ground or air, delete ADS-B messages, which could make a plane disappear from the screen of an air-traffic controller; and modify messages — for example, changing the reported path of a aircraft. The article said that jamming attacks against the system would be "simple" and that ADS-B data have no verification measures to filter out fake messages.

The FAA is aware of such possible attacks, and both it and the DOD have identified a potential solution to this vulnerability, the GAO said.

But as of November, the solution had not been tested, nor had testing been scheduled, the GAO said.

The DOD does not have a "coordinated or accurate" schedule for equipping military aircraft with the new technology, the GAO said.

The DOD and FAA expect to complete a memorandum of agreement in February to both set that schedule and to address security concerns, the GAO said.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Standoff in Kabul hotel ends with Taliban attackers killed

By CHAD GARLAND
AND ZUBAIR BAKARKHAIL
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's Interior Ministry said at least four Afghans and 14 foreigners were killed in an attack at a popular luxury hotel in Kabul that ended Sunday after about 16 hours.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which began when gunmen stormed the Intercontinental Hotel around 9 p.m. Saturday. The head of telecommunications for Farah province was among those killed, said Najib Danish, Interior Ministry spokesman.

Eleven of the 14 foreigners were employees of the private Afghan airline KamAir, Danish said. KamAir also put out an announcement saying some of its flights were disrupted because of the attack.

The exact number of deaths is not clear and may rise. Local outlets had reported more than 40 are believed dead.

Ukraine said six of its citizens were killed in the attack. Pavlo Klimkin, the Ukrainian minister of foreign affairs, released that information Sunday in a statement to The Associated Press.

"I have informed the president of the fact of six Ukrainian citizens as the result of the attack on the hotel in Kabul," Klimkin said.

At least 10 others were wounded, including six security forces personnel. More than 150 people, including 41 foreigners, were evacuated from the hotel, Danish said.

Local TV showed people trying to climb from the hotel windows, and survivors told several outlets they hid under beds or in bath-

rooms until they could escape.

The Taliban said they targeted the hotel because the facility was hosting a gathering of Afghan and foreign officials. One of two major hotels in the city, the Intercontinental is a popular site for weddings, press conferences, official meetings and more.

At the time of the attack, officials from Afghanistan's 34 provinces had gathered for a meeting organized by the country's Telecommunications Ministry.

More than 13 hours later on Sunday morning, dozens of journalists and spectators had gathered to watch the siege play out. They lined a main road outside the hotel complex, which is situated on a hill in the Bagh-e-Bala neighborhood in the Afghan capital's northwest, as sporadic and sometimes heavy gunfire and blasts echoed down from the hilltop.

One of the spectators, Rahmadullah Omorkhaid, 50, said the incident "tells you everything you need to know" about security in Afghanistan. He said he feared a worsening situation in his country, where there has been fighting for as long as he can remember.

Kabul security has been heightened as the city has hosted several important delegations in recent days, including a visit last week by representatives of the United Nations Security Council.

On Thursday, the U.S. Embassy here warned Americans to keep a low profile and be on alert after it received reports that militants were planning attacks on hotels or other places where foreigners congregate.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack Sunday after-

noon, saying it had ended before noon. On the scene, however, gunshots and blasts continued into the noon hour and smoke occasionally billowed from the top floors of the building, which had been charred by flames.

Security forces reached the rooftop and officials said four attackers had been killed, but fighting continued. Danish later said two attackers had been killed on the roof.

Occasional snaps sounded as bullets struck nearby, and some Afghans and journalists ducked into wide gutters lining the road or stooped behind one of the eight civilian ambulances along the route, which had largely been closed to civilian traffic.

At one point, a police ambulance was seen speeding away from the scene as other trucks brought in food and fresh security forces.

It wasn't until after 1 p.m., 16 hours after the attack began, that Afghan security forces waved the flag on the hotel's rooftop, signaling the all-clear.

U.S. Ambassador John R. Bass in Kabul condemned the attacks and praised the government forces for their response to the violence.

"Afghanistan deserves peace and security — not deliberate and murderous attacks on innocent civilians," Bass said.

An embassy spokesman said officials were aware of reports that an American had been trapped inside the hotel when it came under siege. They were in touch with Afghan officials, but had no further details about U.S. casualties.

U.S. military officials with the NATO mission in the country said Saturday there were no U.S. or co-



CHAD GARLAND/Stars and Stripes

Ambulances wait on a road outside the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday to transport casualties as security forces continue working to clear the hotel of Taliban gunmen.

alition casualties in the attack.

The Intercontinental Hotel has witnessed decades of conflict in Kabul. It hosted Soviet invaders and western journalists and it suffered damage from rocket fire in Afghanistan's civil war in the 1990s.

Saturday's attack was the second major siege on the hotel since the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. In 2011, seven Taliban fighters attacked the hotel, leading to a standoff with security forces that lasted five hours and left all the attackers, plus 11 others, dead.

In a statement, the Taliban said five of its members, armed with light and heavy weapons and strapped with suicide vests, had launched the attack.

During a press conference, Danish said early investigations show that six insurgents entered the hotel from the northern side and stormed its kitchen, the AP reported. Two attackers were killed by Special Forces on the sixth floor of the hotel.

Officials have not said how the gunmen entered the complex, which is secured by several lay-

ers of checkpoints, metal detectors and bomb-sniffing dogs. Security duties at the hotel had been handed over to a private company less than three weeks ago, the Interior Ministry said. The incident is under investigation.

Hawa Mohammad, 40, sat on the stoop of a business on the side of the road opposite the hotel. "There is no security," she said. "There is no peace. If there is security, how can they get into this hotel?"

Mohammad said her brother was trapped on the third floor of the Intercontinental, where he worked on the staff of the Pakistani consul, who lives in the building. She was distraught as she awaited news of his fate.

"We're sad and terrorized by this incident," she said.

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Turkish troops enter Syrian Kurdish enclave

Associated Press

HASSA, Turkey — Turkish troops and Syrian opposition forces attacked a Kurdish enclave in northern Syria on Sunday in their bid to oust from the area a U.S.-allied Kurdish militia, which responded with a hail of rockets on Turkish towns that killed at least one refugee.

The Turkish offensive on Afrin, code-named Operation Olive Branch, started Saturday and has heightened tensions in the already complicated Syrian conflict, threatening to further strain ties between NATO, Turkey and the United States. It prompted condemnations from the Syrian government, Iran and Egypt. France called for an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting to discuss the developments there and urged Turkish authorities "to act with restraint in a context where the humanitarian situation is deteriorating in several regions of Syria."

Turkish officials said the troops

Avalanche kills 5 soldiers, injures 12 in Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey — An avalanche hit Turkish soldiers conducting military operations against Kurdish rebels in Turkey's southeast on Sunday, killing five of them and injuring 12 others, officials said.

The avalanche occurred near the town of Hizan in southeastern Turkey's mountainous Bitlis province, according to the governor's

office for the region.

The soldiers were conducting operations against the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, a Kurdish rebel group, the governor's office said.

The private Dogan news agency said the troops were on a mission to locate and destroy shelters used by PKK fighters.

From The Associated Press

its affiliation with Kurdish rebels fighting in southeastern Turkey.

The group controls Afrin, in Syria's northwestern Aleppo province, as well as a swath of territory to the east along Turkey's border. The YPG also forms the backbone of the Syrian Democratic Forces, the main U.S. ally against Islamic State in Syria.

U.S. support for the Kurd-

ish militia has been a cause of perpetual conflict between Ankara and Washington, which has backed the Kurdish militia in the fight against ISIS militants in eastern Syria.

There was no immediate U.S. comment on the operation in Afrin where it does not maintain troops. But U.S. officials have said that the administration had appealed to Turkey not to go ahead with the offensive. A Turkish operation there could have an impact on U.S. operations further east in Syria, the officials said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has vowed to expand the offensive to Manbij, a town to the east that Kurdish forces seized from ISIS in a costly battle with the aid of the U.S.-led coalition. The town has since emerged as a model for U.S.-backed Kurdish rule of largely Arab areas.

An advance on Manbij by NATO member Turkey would strains relations with Washington, which has troops operating in the Manbij area.

NATION

Shutdown confuses, frustrates military overseas

AFN programming among affected services as some Defense Department operations suspended

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Defense Department personnel and their families overseas woke up over the weekend to confusion, uncertainty and some anger about how their lives would be affected by the U.S. government shutdown.

The shutdown became official at midnight Friday in Washington after Democrats and Republicans in Congress failed to agree on a last-minute spending bill to fund government operations.

It didn't take long for some DOD operations to grind to a halt. American Forces Network, which provides entertainment and command information to U.S. servicemembers worldwide through its television and radio services, was dark early Saturday morning in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Classical music was playing on its stations, and the network posted a message online that said AFN services were not available due to the government shutdown.

On Sunday, one AFN sports channel and a news channel began re-airing sporadically overseas, meaning that servicemembers would be able to watch the NFC and AFC championship games.

Camp Humphreys in South Korea first reported the limited AFN availability along with AFN 360 on the internet, followed by multiple viewers in Japan on Twitter.

Just hours before kickoff, AFN announced further availability.

"To the world's most deserving viewing audience, it gives me great pleasure to announce we have been given the authority to bring back limited television services," AFN Director Col. Dave

Honchul posted on the AFN Europe Facebook page. "As such, we have brought back two channels — AFN News and AFN Sports. We will be broadcasting both the NFC and AFC championships.

Ire on Facebook

Prior to the announcement, the network received comments on Facebook from viewers about the timing, though some of the ire was directed at members of Congress. "No NFL divisional championship games ... perfect timing ... I bet members of congress are gonna watch it," someone wrote on AFN Europe's Facebook page.

An NFL spokesperson told The Washington Post on Saturday that the league would provide its NFL Game Pass to USO facilities and was working on other ways for troops to watch the games.

However, not all USO locations — such as those in Iraq and smaller bases in Afghanistan — have the high-speed internet needed for the NFL's streaming service. Also, servicemembers assigned to ships may not have access to a USO facility.

Bagram Air Base, where some 18,000 U.S. and coalition troops, civilians and contractors live in Afghanistan, had a contingency plan for viewing.

"At Bagram, we will be using the DHI (set-top) boxes to view the games," said Tiffany Banks, director of the Pat Tillman USO center on the largest U.S. airfield in Afghanistan. "Presently, each of our televisions have access to all channels, including NBC."

In a statement released Sunday, Pentagon spokesman Dana White said that "despite the government shutdown, DOD determined the operational necessity of television and radio broadcasts constitutes them as essential activities."

In October 2013, the last time the federal government shut down, AFN maintained news and some radio services.

"AFN programming relies entirely on civilian government employees, who were furloughed at midnight Saturday," White said. "Sports broadcasting is not an essential activity and stopped to comply with the shutdown. With minimal manning, we can keep the sports channel up without incurring any additional cost or manpower — complying with shutdown guidance."

Other services

What other programs or services on military bases overseas might be affected is still not clear. Most of the limited guidance that's been put out on official social media channels indicates government organizations are still trying to sort out the way ahead.

Government civilians should report to work as scheduled on Monday, according to several Defense Department websites. Services such as schools, overseas base commissaries and exchanges will remain open. Commissaries in Guam and Puerto Rico also will remain open.

All but a few remote commissaries in the U.S. will begin an "orderly shutdown," according to the dodlive.mil website, which said the Military and Family Life Counseling program also will continue uninterrupted.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, posted a message on Facebook on Saturday morning saying all government employees were to report for duty Monday morning to get further instructions from their supervisors.

Similar guidance was posted for U.S. workers at Army bases in the Kaiserslautern Military Community in Germany.

U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz, also in Germany, said on Facebook that employees regularly scheduled to work on Monday should report, but garrison officials indicated that some civilians will likely be asked not to report at some point. They wrote that a limited number of predesignated personnel "will continue operations; the rest will maintain close contact with their supervisors for specific, up-to-date instructions."

Some services may be limited, reduced or closed beginning as early as Monday, garrison officials said.

Rheinland-Pfalz child care services, health clinics, fitness centers, dining facilities, Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs and shuttle services will remain open during normal hours.

Air Force bases in Kaiserslautern will lose the use of one of their libraries, according to a Facebook posting Saturday from the Ramstein and Vogelweh libraries. The Ramstein library, staffed by local nationals, will stay open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Vogelweh library will be closed until the shutdown is over, the message said. All books in the interim must be returned to Ramstein.

In the Asia-Pacific

In Japan, AFN programming and social media stopped at 2 p.m. Saturday, according to a post on U.S. Naval Forces Japan's official Facebook page.

It added that Fleet and Family Support Center work and family life programs will shut down, but counseling would be available. Restaurants, gyms, movie theaters and other services would remain unaffected.

Like in Europe, the network's TV and radio stations played classical music. On Sunday afternoon,

AFN Tokyo broadcast a radio documentary about controversies surrounding President Donald Trump's administration.

At Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, Marine Sgt. John Robertson, 30, of Roswell, Ga., said Sunday that the change in AFN's programming "hadn't had much impact" on him other than having to find another way to watch the NFL playoffs. He said he was looking for a way to watch it online.

The 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, announced Sunday that it would host a town hall meeting about the shutdown for civilian workers at 9 a.m. Monday in the base theater. Leadership planned to provide additional information and address questions.

U.S. Forces Korea civilians are required to work, but it's unknown when they'll get paid during a continued shutdown.

Civilians "will be reimbursed at such time as Congress makes appropriated funds available to compensate them for this period of service," according to USFK's Facebook page. Military pay beyond Feb. 1 is subject to congressional action, through Congress did vote to pay servicemembers during the 2013 shutdown.

Civilians on leave must either report back to work or take leave without pay, according to the USFK site.

Other commands in mainland Japan and Okinawa have issued messages stating that further information on any local interruptions would be issued within the next couple of days.

Stars and Stripes reporters Erik Slavin, Seth Robson, Aaron Kidd, Chad Garland and Kim Gamel contributed to this report. svan.jennifer@stripes.com
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Budget director holds out hope lawmakers can reach deal

By ALAN FRAM, ANDREW TAYLOR
AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's budget director is holding out hope that feuding Democrats and Republicans in Congress can reach a short-term spending agreement before the start of the workweek Monday, but he worries that the government shutdown could last for several more days if progress remains elusive.

Democratic lawmakers challenged the president to get more involved and to accept bipartisan compromise as a way out of a shutdown that entered its second day Sunday amid finger-pointing from both parties as to who bears primary responsibility.

"I really do believe that at heart here, there was an interest by some folks in the Democratic Party to deny the president sort of the victory lap of the anniversary of his inauguration, the chance to talk about the success of the tax bill, the success of the economy and jobs," Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney said on "Fox News Sunday."



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney speaks with reporters at the White House on Saturday.

"And I think if they get over that, there's a chance this thing gets done before 9 o'clock

on Monday morning when folks come to work."

Democratic lawmakers counter that the president hurt negotiations when he initially expressed support for a compromise and then abruptly turned away from it.

"How can you negotiate with the president under those circumstances where he agrees face to face to move forward with a certain path and then within two hours calls back and pulls the plug?" said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., on ABC's "This Week."

Five Republicans were among the senators who voted Friday night against a House-passed plan. The measure received 50 votes in favor and 49 against, but 60 were needed to break a Democratic filibuster. One of those senators, Republican Rand Paul, of Kentucky, said he is opposed to short-term fiscal bills and called the blame game "ridiculous on both sides."

"It's gamesmanship and it's partisan-ship," Paul said.

Paul said the answer to solving the brinkmanship is to guarantee Democrats in writing that they'll get their debate on immigration issues.

SEE BUDGET ON PAGE 7

NATION



KEN THOMAS/AP

Vice President Mike Pence greets U.S. troops Sunday near the Syrian border. Pence, weighing in from the Middle East on the shutdown in Washington, accused Congress of playing politics with military pay and told American soldiers that the Trump administration would demand that lawmakers reopen the government.

Budget: Lawmakers hold rare weekend meetings

FROM PAGE 6

Durbin said bipartisan conversations are taking place, and lawmakers from both sides are "in good faith trying to find common ground and put this behind us."

"But at the end of the day, the president has to step up and lead in this situation," Durbin said.

Lawmakers are participating in rare weekend proceedings in both the House and Senate, where lawmakers were eager to show voters they were actively working for a solution — or at least actively making their case why the other party was at fault. The scene highlighted the political stakes for both parties in an election-year shutdown, the consequences of which are far from clear.

Democrats refused to provide the votes needed to reopen the government until they strike a deal with Trump protecting young immigrants from deportation, providing disaster relief and boosting spending for opioid treatment and other domestic programs.

The shutdown began Saturday on the anniversary of Trump's inauguration. As lawmakers bickered in the Capitol, protesters marched outside in a reprise of the women's march from a year ago. The president remained out of sight and canceled plans to travel to his resort in Florida for the weekend. He did tweet, making light of the timing by saying Democrats "wanted to give me a nice present" to mark the start of his second year in office.

He resumed his social media commentary early Sunday before lawmakers returned to Capitol Hill, tweeting that it was "great to see how hard Republicans are fighting for our Military and Safety at the Border. The Dems just want illegal immigrants to pour into our nation unchecked." He suggested that if the stalemate drags on, majority Republicans should consider changing Senate rules to do away with the 60-vote threshold to advance legislation and "vote on real, long term budget."

Trump earlier had worked the phones, staying in touch with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., while White House Legislative Af-

fairs Director Marc Short and Mulvaney met at the Capitol with House Republicans. GOP lawmakers voiced support for the White House stance of not negotiating while the government was shuttered.

Tempers were short and theatrics high. Republicans blamed the breakdown on Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer, of New York. Democrats increasingly focused their messaging on criticizing Trump, whose popularity is dismal. Democrats were using his zigzagging stance in immigration talks — first encouraging deals, then rejecting them — to underscore his first, chaotic year in office.

"Negotiating with President Trump is like negotiating with Jell-O," Schumer said. Short compared Democrats' actions to "a 2-year-old temper tantrum."

Republicans seemed content to hope additional Democrats will break as pressure builds and the impact of the shutdown becomes clearer. GOP lawmakers argued that Democrats were blocking extra Pentagon money by keeping the government closed and thwarting a long-term budget deal.

But pressure on Republicans could mount when the new business week begins and the impact becomes more apparent to the public. The Statue of Liberty and Philadelphia's Liberty Bell were closed, but visitors had access to other sites such as Yellowstone National Park. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tweeted a photo of him talking to students at the World War II Memorial in Washington, blocks from the White House.

Social Security and most other safety net programs were unaffected by the lapse in federal spending authority. Critical government functions continued, with uniformed servicemembers, health inspectors and law enforcement officers set to work without pay. But if no deal is reached before Monday, hundreds of thousands of federal employees will be furloughed.

For leverage, Democrats were banking on Trump's wobbly presidency and the GOP's control of the White House, the House and Senate — a triumvirate that until now had never allowed a government closure to occur.

Military a major front in partisan political battle

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

The U.S. military faced a variety of consequences as a result of a federal government shutdown Saturday, with U.S. troops working at least temporarily without pay, thousands of civilian employees furloughed and Republicans and Democrats alike saying their opponents should do better for the troops.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said in a memo released by the Pentagon on Saturday that the U.S. military will continue to carry out operations across the world, but the shutdown already was prompting the cancellation or delay of training for reserve units and was having other effects. Mattis pledged to do his best to mitigate disruptions and the financial impact on military families.

"We will continue to execute daily operations around the world — ships and submarines will remain at sea, our aircraft will continue to fly and our warfighters will continue to pursue terrorists throughout the Middle East, Africa and South Asia," Mattis wrote. "While training for reservists must be curtailed, active forces will stay at their posts adapting their training to achieve the least negative impact on our readiness to fight."

Mattis added: "Steady as she goes — hold the line. I know our Nation can count on you."

According to a Pentagon planning memo posted last week, all active-duty uniformed personnel are to continue their duties, but they will not be paid until after the shutdown is resolved.

Col. John Thomas, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said the shutdown would not have a significant impact across the Middle East, where U.S. troops are conducting operations against militants in Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen and elsewhere, and where the U.S. military has a host of major bases.

Effort to pay troops

President Donald Trump accused the Democrats on Saturday morning of "holding our Military hostage over their desire to have unchecked illegal immigration," a reference to the dispute that is at the heart of the shutdown.

But the situation wasn't that simple. Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and other Republicans blamed the Democrats, Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., made an effort shortly after midnight to get the troops' salaries and death benefits paid through the shutdown.

"I want to make sure that tonight we send a very clear signal that we don't want one moment to pass with there being any uncertainty of any soldier anywhere in the world that they will be paid for the valiant work they do for our national security," McCaskill said, calling for a resolution to pay the troops.

McCaskill scuttled the effort, objecting to her motion.

The pay situation threatened the financial well-being of service members, whose annual salaries begin at less than \$30,000. As McCaskill noted, Congress has historically given the military back pay when a shutdown occurs or passed a bill that pays them during a work stoppage. U.S. troops are paid twice a month, and the next check is expected Feb. 1.

Reservists

As Mattis predicted in public remarks Friday, military reservists across the country traveled in preparation for scheduled training this past weekend, only to be sent home after the shutdown at midnight. While some live close to their units, it's common for reservists to travel several hours to bases for drilling.

A soldier assigned to the Army's 450th Civil Affairs Battalion in Maryland said his unit is preparing for a monthlong exercise in March and was planning to work on weapons qualifications this past weekend in advance. The battalion includes numerous congressional staff members, he said.

"We have dozens of mission-planning tasks to complete since we just got our initial operations order for the exercise on Thursday," said the soldier, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to be candid. "Not to mention all the equipment that needs to be prepared to move by rail. This puts us really far behind where we only two days scheduled in February to prepare for a monthlong training."

Former officials said the impact of the shutdown, especially if it goes on for an extended period of time, may be felt most keenly in military families because of its effect on civilian or reserve personnel involved in maintenance and training.

"Disrupting those schedules often has a domino effect," said Susanna Blume, who was a Pentagon official at the time of the last shutdown in 2013. Military intelligence activities, which often rely on civilian personnel, also could be affected, she said.

"We hope Congress has our country's best interest in mind," Col. Mark Cheadle, a U.S. Africa Command spokesman, said when asked about the shutdown.

NATION

Women's March sets sights on the ballot box

By LAURA KING,
ANDREA CASTILLO
AND NINA AGRAWAL
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — In a boisterous coast-to-coast outpouring, hundreds of thousands of marchers in dozens of cities staged a reprise of last year's Women's March, seeking to not only deliver a powerful rebuke to the policies of President Donald Trump but also to mount a crucial mobilization for this year's midterm elections.

In addition to the roll call of major American cities where marches took place — including New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Dallas, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta — protesters raised their voices in suburbs and small towns, reflecting the aim of coalescing a broad-based movement on the anniversary of Trump's inauguration to oppose the president's stance on immigration, health care, racial divides and other issues.

Against the backdrop of the government shutdown that took hold Saturday, many marchers pointed to the irony of the closure of sites associated with the fight for liberty and equality, such as the Statue of Liberty and the visitor center at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta.



CLIFF OWEN/AP

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, center, joins the Women's March in Washington on Saturday.

Like last year's protests, these overspilled U.S. borders, with dozens of overseas gatherings. In Rome, Italian actress-director Asia Argento, one of movie mogul Harvey Weinstein's accusers, called on women to "speak out and change things."

There was a short confrontation between supporters of Trump and some marchers near the end of the march route near Los Angeles Police Department headquarters, where a group of eight Trump supporters stood waving flags and speaking through bullhorns.

Women's March volunteers stood in a line holding hands in front of the pro-Trump crowd, separating them from the bulk of the marchers. Dozens of police officers kept watch.

The two groups hurled insults at each other, with the Trump backers yelling, "Go back to Mexico!" and the marchers yelling, "Go home, racists!"

The mood at many of the rallies was lighthearted. Marchers vied to outdo one another with doll signs — "Ugh where do I start," read one, while another declared, "If you take away my birth control, I'll just make more feminists." The age spectrum ranged from babies to elders, with large numbers of men marching along with women.



RICHARD VOGEL/AP

Hundreds of thousands of people march in downtown Los Angeles on Saturday, calling for women to use their votes to oppose Trump administration policies they believe hurt women and families.

In New York, crowds were backed up for dozens of blocks leading to the rally site on the edge of Central Park.

In Washington, the march made its way to the gates of the White House. Groups gathered early at the Lincoln Memorial under clear skies. Brazilian drummers warmed up the crowd to cheers.

Later, protesters were able to gather within earshot of the White House, massing on a stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue closed last year for the inauguration.

Because of the government shutdown, Trump was in town, having put off a trip to his Florida resort of Mar-a-Lago for a glitzy \$100,000-per-couple fundraiser. The president took to Twitter to hail the anniversary of his inauguration, suggesting that marchers could use the occasion to celebrate his accomplishments.

Organizers of Power to the Polls planned the event to inspire more progressive candidates to run for office, register voters and educate activists on how they can effectively mobilize people to vote.

Across the country, organizers said electoral politics are taking precedence over street activism.

There are 390 potential female candidates for the U.S. House, almost double the 202 women running at this time in 2016, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

Another 49 female candidates are probably running for the Senate, compared with 21 two years ago. The majority of these female candidates are Democrats.

European women rally for change

Associated Press

LONDON — Thousands of people on two continents picked up the baton from the U.S. and rallied Sunday in solidarity with women demanding equality, justice and an end to sexual harassment.

Demonstrations in London, Paris, Sydney and other European and Australian cities followed much larger marches held Saturday across the U.S. to mark the anniversary of President Donald Trump's inauguration and the protest it inspired.

In the British capital, demonstrators carried placards reading "We Are Powerful" and "Time's Up" and chanted outside Prime Minister Theresa May's office as they raised grievances ranging from workplace inequities to misogynistic abuse on social media.

The London event drew thousands of people despite sleet and snow. Heavy rain fell on the protesters who gathered near the Eiffel Tower, which could have been a factor in the small number of participants.



THIBAUT CAMUS/AP

People gather at the Trocadero square, near the Eiffel Tower, to protest against President Donald Trump in Paris on Sunday.

"It doesn't matter if the weather is like this," said Maggie Kan, who was one of the more than 100 people who didn't let the rain and cold deter them. "We're still coming together, and we're going to still fight against Trump and his agenda."

More texts from agent removed from Mueller team turned over to Congress

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has turned over to Congress additional text messages involving an FBI agent who was removed from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigative team following the discovery of derogatory comments about President Donald Trump.

But the department also said in a letter to lawmakers that its record of messages sent to and from the agent, Peter Strzok, was incomplete because the FBI, for technical reasons, had been unable to preserve

and retrieve about five months' worth of communications.

New text messages highlighted in a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray by Sen. Ron Johnson, the Republican chairman of the Senate's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, are from the spring and summer of 2016 and involve discussion of the Hillary Clinton email investigation. They reference, among other things, Attorney General Loretta Lynch's decision to accept the FBI's findings in that case and a draft statement former FBI Director James Comey had prepared in anticipation of concluding the investigation without criminal charges.

Strzok, a veteran counterintelligence agent who also worked the Clinton email case, was reassigned from the team investigating ties between Russia and Trump's Republican presidential campaign after Mueller learned that he had traded politically charged text messages — many anti-Trump in nature — with an FBI lawyer who was also detailed to the group. The lawyer, Lisa Page, left Mueller's team before the text messages were discovered.

The Justice Department last month produced for reporters and Congress hundreds of text messages between the two officials, with Republican lawmakers contending that the communication reveals

the FBI and Mueller team to be politically tainted and biased against Trump — assertions Wray has flatly rejected.

Beyond the communications already made public, the Justice Department on Friday provided Johnson's committee with 384 pages of text messages, according to a letter obtained by The Associated Press.

But Johnson said the FBI had told the department that the FBI's system for retaining text messages sent and received on bureau phones had failed to preserve communications between Strzok and Page over a five-month period between December 2016 and March 2017.

NATION

BY BARRY ADAMS

(Madison) Wisconsin State Journal

YVONNE BENNETT hasn't been trained in the art of cartography, but she's done a pretty good job of mapping the deep roots of Wisconsin's bowling heritage.

Not surprisingly, her plat of throwback bowling alleys — with eight, six and even two lanes — is concentrated in some of the state's smallest communities.

There's Stars & Strikes in Princeton and Lambeau Lanes in Red Granite, with four lanes each. And also, Stubby's Bowl in Waterloo, with six lanes, and Fireball Lanes in Lancaster, with eight lanes.

"If you're into old stuff and bowling, it's a pretty cool place to drive," said Bennett, executive director of the Pewaukee-based Bowling Centers Association of Wisconsin.

So when the Green Bay Packers had a bye in the fall, Bennett broke out her map, chartered a bus and organized a tour of vintage bowling centers. The 11.5-hour excursion, designed to promote and showcase older facilities, covered about 135 miles for 11 bowling enthusiasts who each paid \$119 and combined to bowl 75 games, all scored in pencil.

There were rounds of Bloody Marys and Old Fashioneds, a healthy dose of nostalgia and a fair number of strikes and spares in historic settings far removed from the state's largest bowling center, the 72-lane AMF Bowlero Lanes in Wauwatosa.

Wisconsin is home to 308 bowling centers, ranking third only behind Pennsylvania's 318 and New York's 317, according to Bennett. But Wisconsin is uniquely flush with smaller bowling centers. The state has 84 bowling alleys with between two and six lanes, the most in the country, many of them with wood instead of synthetic lanes, manual scorekeeping and exposed ball returns.

Iron Ridge

The group was greeted by one owner, Robin Ehrensberger, who had the television set to a football game. They piled into her narrow building, constructed in 1994 on the main drag of Iron Ridge, a community of 937 people southeast of Horicon in northeastern Dodge County.

The first lanes were built in the basement but were later moved to the first floor of the building, which at one time was added to a barbershop and meat market. In 1907, the Mayville News reported the Iron Ridge Bowling Club was holding a five-day tournament. Entry fee \$2.

Ehrensberger, 53, bought the business in 2005 and has added three outdoor horseshoe pits and indoor darts for league and recreational play plus a concrete pad for outdoor parties, which help diversify her business.

The four lanes here are a step back in time. The ball returns are exposed, the Brunswick hand dryers are chrome and the pin-setting machines were salvaged decades ago from a bowling alley in West Bend.

More than 100 people take part in Ehrensberger's bowling leagues, which is more than 10

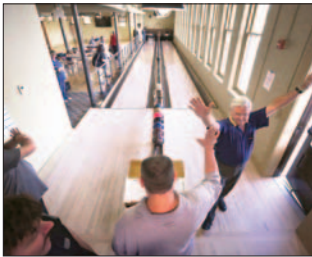
'Living history'

Wisconsin flush with vintage bowling centers



PHOTOS BY JOHN HART, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL/AP

Bowlers participating on a tour of vintage lanes organized by the Bowling Centers Association of Wisconsin prepare to board a bus following a stop at Ley's Bark River Lanes in Rome, Wis., on Oct. 29.



Left: Chance Leisgang, 11, right, and Remy Nelan, 12, work behind the two lanes of the bowling alley at the Fort Atkinson Club in Fort Atkinson, Wis. Right: Roger Dalkin, of Greenfield, Wis., right, celebrates after picking up a spare at the Fort Atkinson Club.

percent of the village's population. One of her leagues on Thursday doesn't start until 9 p.m. to accommodate local farmers.

"I'm constantly recruiting," Ehrensberger said. "I have people that come from all over."

This is where the outdoor beer sign on the front of the building touts Old Style beer; wooden doors to the restrooms are barely 2 feet wide and beer steins painted by famed wildlife artist Terry Redlin can be purchased.

Ehrensberger, a former accountant, is only the fourth owner of the building and believes the size of her facility gives her an advantage.

"It's a lot easier to fill four lanes than 24 lanes," Ehrensberger said.

Rome

Services had just ended at St. Luke's Lutheran Church when the tour bus pulled up to the corner of

highways P and Y in downtown Rome, an unincorporated community of roughly 600 people east of Jefferson.

Part of the building that houses the bar, restaurant and six-lane Ley's Bark River Lanes has stood on this corner since 1844. The site was a dance hall and former meat locker, with bowling added in 1956.

Larry Leys, 72, who had a career installing security and phone systems, bought the business in 2003. This is home for Leys, who grew up next door, where his father re-

paired radios and televisions. His grandfather had a hardware store across the street from the bowling alley.

"There's no through traffic here," said Leys, shortly after serving the group homemade pizza, one topped with bratwurst slices and Swiss cheese. "If somebody comes through Rome, they either take a wrong turn or they know where they were headed."

The bowling center, with advertising banners for local businesses like Pelican Plumbing, Pal Steel and Biggy's Decorative Concrete Edging, hosts league play four nights a week, doesn't allow powdered resin and accounts for about 20 percent of his business.

The remainder comes from the bar and restaurant. There are grilled steaks on Wednesday, ribs on Thursday and a fish fry on Friday nights that can draw 180 and cram the dining room, which was once a dance floor.

The bar resembles a wildlife museum, with wood-framed glass cases that double as tables, all built by Leys. One holds a badger hit by a car a few miles from his business. Another is filled with three beavers trapped in nearby Bark River. He also has part of the goal post he and a few buddies took after the Packers beat the Los Angeles Rams at Milwaukee County Stadium on Dec. 2, 1962. It was the last home game of a season that would end a few weeks later with a world championship.

Leys echoes the sentiment of other bowling operators and has shortened his leagues to 24 weeks from 32 weeks in an effort to attract more bowlers.

"It was too much for people," Leys said. "There's so many things going on in the world now."

Fort Atkinson

This grand building, modeled after the Wisconsin Building at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, was constructed for \$10,376 along the Rock River and has had quite a run since opening in 1913 in this city of 12,541 people.

The original club members were men who paid \$18 a year to use the three-story, 6,000-square-foot building for drinking brandy, eating, smoking cigars, playing billiards and, in the basement, bowling on its two lanes with pin-setting boys. The club was purchased in 1930 by the Billings Masonic Lodge, which had their own leagues.

The Masons sold the building in 1986, and it was used primarily for storage until it was bought in 2011 by Joan Jones, who created a nonprofit foundation to raise \$2.5 million and restore the building for public use.

The result is stunning, with dark woodwork, hardwood floors, a second-floor solarium that overlooks the river, a commercial kitchen, meeting rooms and the ballroom. It now hosts poetry readings, concerts, weddings and other social events. The bowling lanes of the Fort Atkinson Club were restored earlier this year for about \$20,000.

"It's part of the history of the building. It's part of the integrity of the architecture," said Renae Mitchell, director of the club. "We decided that it was better to restore it and have it as something people can do. It's part of living history in a sense."

But for bowlers, there are challenges. The approaches are shorter and there are no marks on the lanes that are standard at most bowling centers.

Bowlers also need to make sure they get a thumbs-up from the pin-setters indicating they have cleared the pit that collects the pins and the balls.

Chance Leisgang, 11, and Remy Nelan, 12, spent about 90 minutes setting pins and sipping cans of Diet Pepsi. They worked for tips and each earned \$42.50 from the tour group, a far cry from the nickels and dimes earned by their predecessors decades before. In most frames, they could rest a full 10 pins in less than 30 seconds.

"Spare is key," Chance said. Added Remy: "If you don't do it right, they tend to get stuck."

'If you're into old stuff and bowling, it's a pretty cool place to drive.'

Yvonne Bennett
executive director of the Bowling Centers Association of Wisconsin

NATION

Trump not at gala but still raises '20 campaign funding

By DAVID A. FAHRENTHOLD
The Washington Post

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump's posh Mar-a-Lago Club hosted a high-priced gala on Saturday night intended to celebrate Trump's first year in office and raise money for his re-election campaign and the Republican National Committee.

Tickets started at \$100,000 per couple, Bloomberg News reported. The guest of honor, however, wasn't there. With the government shut down and Congress in negotiations, Trump postponed his scheduled departure from Washington. But he still made money.

By holding the event at his own club, Trump was able to collect tens of thousands of dollars in fees for food, ballroom rental and other costs. In effect, he transformed his supporters' political donations into revenue for his business.

Again.
Since Trump began running for president in the summer of 2015, he has repeatedly used his hotels and golf courses as venues for his campaign events — and paid himself for the privilege.

During the 2016 election cycle, Trump's campaign spent at least \$701,000 to hold events at 12 Trump-branded venues: three hotels, seven golf courses, a condo building and Mar-a-Lago, federal campaign filings show. That was on top of millions more that Trump's campaign paid his business for other expenses such as hotel stays, meals and rent for office space at Trump Tower.

After Inauguration Day, it continued.

Trump got an unusually early start on fundraising events for his 2020 re-election campaign, holding a \$35,000-per-table fundraiser in June. The venue for that event: Trump International Hotel in Washington. The Republican National Committee footed the

bill, paying about \$167,000 to Trump's business.

Federal election laws bar candidates from the "personal use" of campaign donations — a ban meant to stop candidates from buying things unrelated to their runs for office. If a purchase is a result of campaign activity, the government allows it.

How do those rules apply to an official like Trump, who's renting lavish ballrooms from himself at a for-profit club that also is his home and "Winter White House"?

"The prevailing view among election lawyers is that the law isn't violated so long as the campaign committee pays fair-market value for the goods and services received from Mar-a-Lago," said Paul Ryan, a campaign finance expert at the government watchdog group Common Cause.

It remained unclear how much Mar-a-Lago received from the Republican National Committee for Saturday night's event. A GOP spokesman declined to provide any details of the event. A Trump campaign spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In the past, when large charities have held galas at Mar-a-Lago, they have typically paid between \$100,000 and \$275,000 for catering and ballroom rentals, according to annual reports those charities filed with the IRS.

For Trump's club, this GOP event fills in a Saturday-night slot in what historically is his busy season.

On Saturday, in fact, one of Trump's traditional charity clients held its relocated gala elsewhere while GOP donors gathered at Mar-a-Lago. The Susan G. Komen breast cancer organization, which held events at Mar-a-Lago for seven straight years, will hold one this year on a cruise liner at the Port of Palm Beach, Fla.

rasment complaint the ex-aidé filed last summer to the congressional Office of Compliance.

In a statement, Ryan's spokeswoman said the allegations must be investigated "fully and immediately" by the Ethics Committee and that Meehan would immediately submit himself to the committee's review. Meehan is being removed from his position on the committee, and Ryan told Meehan that he should repay any taxpayer funds that were used to settle the case, Ryan's spokeswoman said.

The Times did not identify the accuser and said she did not



Left: Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen testifies before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday on Capitol Hill in Washington. Right: Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, the former vice chairman of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, addresses the crowd during a November fundraiser for his campaign for governor in Overland Park, Kan.



AP photos

President's attempts to investigate voter fraud appear to have stalled

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — President Donald Trump hasn't backed away from his unsubstantiated claim that millions of illegally cast ballots cost him the popular vote in 2016, but his efforts to investigate it appear to have stalled.

He transferred the work of the commission investigating his claim to the Department of Homeland Security. Last week, the department's top official made it clear that when it comes to elections, their focus is on safeguarding state and local voting systems from cyberattacks and other manipulation.

While the Department of Justice has broad authority to investigate voter fraud claims, White House officials said previously that Homeland Security was the best agency to take over the work of the now-dissolved Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. A Justice Department official declined to comment last week on whether the agency was conducting any reviews related to voter fraud but confirmed that no

voter data collected by the commission, or analysis of the data, was given to the agency before the commission was disbanded.

The end of the commission is welcome news to voting rights advocates concerned that its ultimate goal was to promote voter-suppression efforts. They and numerous state election officials were alarmed when the commission issued a broad request to states last spring for detailed information on their voters, including partial Social Security numbers, dates of birth, addresses and voting history.

"The commission was an unprecedented attempt to make it harder for ordinary Americans to vote and have their voices heard," said Kristen Clarke, head of the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights, which sued, alleging the commission violated laws requiring transparency. "In the end, it was a monumental failure on the part of this administration and makes clear that this is an administration that does not place a premium on the right to vote."

An Associated Press tally showed that 15 states and the Dis-

trict of Columbia refused to turn over the voter data, many citing privacy concerns, and a handful of others had yet to decide by the time Trump ended the commission. Some of the states that pushed back against the commission's request for voter data were Republican-leaning, including North Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee and Wyoming.

The White House announcement dissolving the commission said Trump had "asked the Department of Homeland Security to review its initial findings and determine next courses of action." But the director of White House Information Technology, Charles C. Herndon, said in a recently filed court documents that the commission did not create any preliminary findings before it was disbanded. He also stated that none of the voter data collected by the commission will be transferred to or accessed by Homeland Security or any other federal agency, with the possible exception of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Herndon said the White House intended to destroy the voter data.

Congressman denies misconduct claim; ethics probe might follow

By MARC LEVY
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., called for a House Committee on Ethics investigation Saturday after the New York Times reported that U.S. Rep. Patrick Meehan, R-Pa., had taxpayer money to settle a complaint that stemmed from his hostility toward a former aide who rejected his romantic overtures.

The story, published online Saturday, cited unnamed people who said Meehan used thousands of dollars from his congressional office fund to settle the sexual ha-



Meehan

the ex-aidé. It also said Meehan, the former U.S. attorney in Philadelphia, had asked congressional lawyers who handled the case to ask the ex-aidé's lawyer to dissolve

the settlement's confidentiality requirements "to ensure a full and open airing of all the facts."

In a statement, the four-term congressman's office denied that Meehan sexually harassed or mistreated

the settlement's confidentiality requirements "to ensure a full and open airing of all the facts."

"Throughout his career, he has always treated his colleagues, male and female, with the utmost respect and professionalism," Meehan's office said.

The accuser's lawyer, Alexis Ronickher, called the allegations "well-grounded" and rejected the idea of doing away with confidentiality.

Meehan is trying to victimize her client twice by revealing the woman's identity and litigating the case in the media, Ronickher

said.

She called it a "dirty political maneuver" by Meehan and an effort to save his political career by making it look like he's being transparent.

"Mr. Meehan demanded confidentiality to resolve the matter, presumably so that the public would never know that he entered into a settlement of a serious sexual harassment claim," Ronickher said.

Calls from Democrats for Meehan to resign were immediate, including one from Pennsylvania Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf.

NATION

'Serial stowaway' sneaks past airport security — again

The Washington Post

Marilyn Jean Hartman is infamous. For years, law enforcement agencies in several states have known her for her seemingly endless and bizarre habit of getting on planes without a ticket, a boarding pass or a passport.

Hartman, 66, was caught trying to get to Hawaii at least once in 2014. She made it to Los Angeles that same year after trying several times to board a plane in San Jose. She flew to Florida in 2015 after boarding a plane in Minnesota. She was jailed in Chicago that same year for trying to bypass security at the city's two major airports. According to news reports, she usually tries to blend in with big groups to get past security.

In 2016, an Illinois judge sentenced her to two years of probation and six months at a mental health facility, where she had already been staying, after she was arrested again at Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

Hartman is back on the news again. This time, she made it to London.

She sneaked past security in Chicago and boarded a flight to Heathrow Airport. She was arrested after arriving there Jan. 15 and was flown back to the United States on Thursday, according to Chicago police. Hartman has been

charged with criminal trespass, a misdemeanor, and theft, a felony. The Transportation Security Administration is investigating how she managed to sneak past.

Her bizarre and headline-grabbing behavior has confounded authorities.

"Ms. Hartman, what am I supposed to do?" Cook County Circuit Court Judge William Raines asked during a hearing in May 2015, according to NBC affiliate WMAQ.

In 2015, a lengthy San Francisco Magazine profile of Hartman painted a picture of a woman who had been estranged from family members in Illinois, who constantly felt "the need to get on a plane to go away," and who told wild tales of coverups and conspiracies.

Hartman claimed that people — airport security, public transit passengers, jail inmates, President Barack Obama — have all conspired to compel her to sneak onto planes in an elaborate attempt to punish her, and then allow her to escape lengthy prison sentences so she can do it all over again, and again.

Hartman was living at an apartment facility for low-income seniors at a Chicago suburb before her arrest last week. She was scheduled to appear in court Saturday, according to media reports.

Puerto Rico finances under scrutiny amid plea for help

By DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Top financial officials in Puerto Rico offered a peek Friday into why the U.S. territory is mired in an 11-year recession as a federal control board demanded more transparency and information about the island's finances.

Officials said that for decades, the number of government bank accounts was unclear, public agencies used one of four accounting systems, and government vendors charged more for services when not paid, among other issues.

The testimony they provided during a public hearing held by the board comes as Puerto Rico's government continues to insist it is managing out the island's needs more help from the U.S. for post-hurricane recovery efforts.

Gerardo Portela, director of the island's Fiscal Agency and Financial Advisory Authority, said an ongoing audit has found \$6.8 billion in some 800 government accounts but noted that \$1.3 billion of that is not available for use because of restrictions.

He noted the government has a central cash balance of \$1.7 billion and stressed the island's power agency and water and sewer company will soon have to fund as the territory struggles to recover

from a Category 4 hurricane that caused up to an estimated \$95 billion in damage.

Federal officials sent Portela a letter stating they were temporarily withholding a \$1 billion loan approved by Congress for recovery efforts because they felt Puerto Rico had sufficient funds.

The federal control board and local officials are trying to identify additional revenue sources as the island struggles to restructure a portion of its \$73 billion public debt load.

Juan Zaragoza, Puerto Rico's highly regarded former treasury secretary, said part of the problem is that former government officials didn't initially look into information now demanded by the board. He recounted a time he was tasked with closing all bank accounts at the currently defunct Government Development Bank, which once oversaw the island's debt transactions.

"I honestly thought we had like 30 or 40 bank accounts. We had 644 accounts at GDB," he said. "No one had ever had the responsibility or the need to make an inventory of the bank accounts because there was enough money."

Zaragoza also criticized other practices, including the island's initial lack of a tax expenditure budget and its tradition of overestimating revenue collections.



MIKE BALSAMO/AP

People attend a candlelight vigil in Santa Barbara, Calif., on Jan. 14 to pay tribute to the people who were killed when mudslides ravaged nearby Montecito, Calif.

California mudslide takes a heavy toll on immigrants

By JULIE WATSON

Associated Press

Oprah Winfrey and Rob Lowe give Montecito its star power, but it's people like Antonio and Victor Benitez who keep the wealthy Southern California community running.

The Mexican brothers are gardeners and part of the town's working-class immigrant population, which suffered outsized losses from the recent mudslides that killed at least 21, injured dozens and damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes.

Antonio and Victor Benitez suffered broken bones and each lost a child. Antonio's wife was killed. Victor's wife was killed — her body was found Saturday — and his toddler son was injured.

Nearly a third of those killed in the Jan. 9 mudslides were from immigrant families working in service jobs in the largely white and retired Pacific coast town.

Among them was Pinit Sutthithipa, 30, from Thailand who worked at a Toyota dealership in Santa Barbara and sent money to his wife and two children for years before being able to bring them to the United States in 2016. The mudslides killed him, his 6-year-old son and his 79-year-old stepfather. Crews are still searching for Sutthithipa's 2-year-old daughter.

His wife and mother were working at a grocery store when rocks and rushing water obliterated their home, Mike Caldwell, Sutthithipa's boss wrote on a GoFundMe page seeking help for the family.

Martin Cabrera Munoz, 48, worked long hours as a landscaper so he could send money to his children in his native Guanajuato,

Mexico. He was sleeping in the room he kept at his boss' home when an avalanche of mud ripped through the property.

"He wanted to give his kids a better life," his youngest sister, Diana Montero, told the Los Angeles Times.

His funeral was held Wednesday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Santa Barbara, where people are also mourning the deaths in the Benitez family.

Many members of the modest church are without work now that the million-dollar homes they cared for have been destroyed by the storm-triggered landslides, which also closed U.S. Highway 101, a major route for commuters between the region's two major cities, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

Victor and Antonio Benitez built a thriving gardening business after coming to the United States as teenagers from Mexico, joining their father and another brother.

The two brothers, their wives and children shared a home so they could afford the rent in Montecito, where the median home price is more than \$4 million.

They were asleep when the mud and rocks thundered down the hillsides. As it poured in, collapsing the walls, some of the family members tried to escape through the kitchen door but were swept away.

The body of Victor's son, Jona-

than Benitez, 10, was found nearly 2 miles away.

The body of Jonathan's mother, Faviola Benitez Calderon, 28, a housekeeper, was located Saturday, another victim of the mudslides.

Antonio and Victor Benitez, and Victor's toddler son, Ian, remain in the hospital with broken bones and bruises.

Antonio Benitez underwent surgery for abdominal injuries from being dragged by the landslide. He is recovering but overwhelmed with grief over the loss of his wife, Marilyn Ramos, 27, and his daughter, Kally, 3, their only child.

"Antonio wakes up, cries and cries, and then is given a sedative to go back to sleep, only to wake up again later and cry again," said his sister-in-law, Jennifer Ramos.

Marilyn Ramos was living the American dream that had spurred her to come to the United States at age 20, said her sister, who remained in Marquetia, a small Mexican fishing community south of Acapulco. Ramos met her husband in California.

Nearly a third of Pamela Viale's upscale neighborhood in nearby Goleta hired Antonio and Victor Benitez. The brothers worked for her for five years.

"We're really very devastated by their loss," she said.

Viale and others organized GoFundMe pages to help the family, who also lost their tools and truck and face mounting medical bills and funeral costs before they can rebuild their lives.



Calderon



Sutthithipa

NATION

Challenger Center Framingham, Massachusetts

NASA



International Space Station

NASA VIDEO/AP

Astronauts Scott Tingle, Joe Acaba and Norishige Kanai, aboard the International Space Station, take questions from students at Framingham State University in Framingham, Mass., on Friday. The astronauts will perform some of Christa McAuliffe's science lessons, which she was unable to complete because of the space shuttle Challenger disaster.

McAuliffe's lost lessons finally taught in space

By MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CANECAVERAL, Fla. — Christa McAuliffe's lost lessons are finally getting taught in space.

Thirty-two years after the space shuttle Challenger disaster, a pair of teachers-turned-astronauts will pay tribute to McAuliffe by carrying out her science classes on the International Space Station.

As NASA's first designated teacher in space, McAuliffe was going to experiment with fluids and demonstrate Newton's laws of motion for schoolchildren. She never made it to orbit: She and six crewmates were killed during the liftoff of the space shuttle Challenger on Jan. 28, 1986.

Astronauts Joe Acaba and Ricky Arnold will perform some of McAuliffe's lessons over the next several months. Acaba shared the news during a TV linkup Friday with students at McAuliffe's alma mater, Framingham State University near Boston.

"I can't think of a better time or a better place to make this announcement," Acaba said. He and Arnold "look forward to helping to inspire the next generation of explorers and educators."

Four lessons — on effervescence, or bubbles; chromatography; liquids; and Newton's laws — will be filmed by Acaba and Arnold, then posted online by the Challenger Center, a not-for-profit organization supporting science, technology, engineering and math education. The center's president, Lance Bush, said he's thrilled "to bring Christa's lessons to life."

"We are honored to have the opportunity to complete Christa's lessons and share them with students and teachers around the world," Bush said in a statement.

On Friday, he thanked Acaba, who along with two station crewmates fielded questions from Framingham State students about life in space.

NASA Associate Administrator for Education Mike Kincaid said the lessons are

"an incredible way to honor and remember" McAuliffe as well as the entire Challenger crew.

Four of the six lessons that McAuliffe planned to videotape during her spaceflight will be done. A few will be altered to take advantage of what's available aboard the space station.

'We are honored to have the opportunity to complete Christa's lessons and share them with students and teachers around the world.'

Lance Bush
president of the
Challenger Center

The lessons should be available on-line beginning this spring.

Acaba returns to Earth at the end of February. Arnold flies up in March. NASA is billing their back-to-back missions as "A Year of Education on Station."

The two were teaching middle school math and science on opposite sides of the world — Acaba in Florida and Arnold in Romania — when NASA picked them as educator-astronauts in 2004.

McAuliffe was teaching history, law and economics at Concord High School in New Hampshire when she was selected as the primary candidate for NASA's teacher-in-space project in 1985.

Her backup, Barbara Morgan, is on the Challenger Center's board of directors. Morgan was NASA's first educator-astronaut, flying on the shuttle Endeavour in 2007 and helping to build the space station.

McAuliffe planned to keep a journal during her space shuttle mission, and one college student asked if the astronauts were doing the same. Acaba said he's been making entries in a leather-bound journal during his entire 14 years as an astronaut.



STEVE HELBER/AP

Four crewmembers of the space shuttle Challenger walk from their quarters at Kennedy Space Center in Florida en route to the launch pad on Jan. 28, 1986. From foreground are pilot Mike Smith, schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe, mission specialist Ellison Onizuka and payload specialist Gregory Jarvis.

INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stripes as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at stripes.com or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in

Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transmitted to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2015 Columbia Journalism School Dart Awards

Feature Story Reporting
(Daily Circulation 1,500,000)
Finalist: Martin Kuz: "Army Sgt. Isaac Sims left the war in Iraq, but it didn't leave him"

2014 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Feature Story Reporting

(Daily Circulation 1,500,000)
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Death shapes life for teens that prepare bodies of fallen troops for final flight home"

2014 VFW News Media Award

For outstanding contribution to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting.

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest

Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Soldiers Recount Attack"

2011 Military Photographer of the Year

Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMott

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award

Breaking News Photography
(Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism

Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Awards – Overseas coverage
(< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabirow

2010 National Headliner Awards

First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) – Third Place: News Series (Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism

George Polk Award for Military Reporting
Recipients: Charles Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Baron

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery Photography; Fred Zimmerman

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards

Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Steve Lewis Photography; Terry Boyd

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award

Ground Truth Award

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award

First Amendment, Finalist

WORLD



VADIM GUERDA/AP

People shine the lights of their mobile phones next to a large European Union flag bearing the words "Here — Now" during a protest outside the Parliament building in Bucharest, Romania, on Saturday.

Tens of thousands in Romania protest corruption legislation

By ALISON MUTLER

Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Tens of thousands of Romanians on Saturday protested against legislation passed by Parliament that critics say will make it harder to prosecute crime and high-level corruption.

Protesters briefly scuffled with riot police as they massed in Bucharest's University Square. Protesters shouted "Thieves, thieves!" and "Resign!" and blew whistles and waved Romanian flags. They then marched toward Parliament.

Protesters of all ages came to vent their anger at the left-wing

government, some accompanied by dogs or children.

Architect Tiberiu Calinescu, 30, who was carrying his 4-month-old daughter, said, "I have come here for the future of my daughter. I want to live in a Romania that is civilized and close to European" standards.

Diana Gradinaru, 45, an economist, said the new legislation could result in "terrible thefts" by high-level officials, citing legislation that meant video and audio recordings could no longer be used as evidence in prosecutions.

There were smaller protests in the cities of Cluj, Timisoara, Constanta, Bacau, Sibiu and Iasi. Protesters began arriving earlier

in the capital by train from other Romanian cities and were greeted by people waving Romanian flags.

Last year, Romania saw the biggest protests since communism ended after the left-wing government tried to decriminalize official misconduct.

Parliament last month approved amendments to laws that many say will lead to a backsliding on its anti-corruption fight.

Prime Minister-designate Viorica Dancila supports revamping the judicial system. She is an ally of Liviu Dragnea, chairman of the Social Democracy Party, who can't be premier due to a conviction for vote-rigging.

Not all happy about unified Korean team

By KIM TONG-HYUNG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Koreans seem generally happy they'll see the North Koreans at their Olympics, but aren't as pleased about sharing a team with them.

The agreement between the war-separated rivals to field a unified women's ice hockey team at February's Winter Olympics has triggered a debate in South Korea, where there's no longer strong public clamor for reunification or for using sports to make political statements.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who views the Pyeongchang Games as an opportunity to improve relations following a year of tension over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, said the unified team would provide a "historically grand moment" once it appears on ice.

Other reconciliatory gestures the Koreans have agreed to for the Olympics include a joint march under a blue-and-white "unification" flag during the Feb. 9 opening ceremony and a pair of

performances by a visiting North Korean art troupe. The joint march and the unified hockey team were approved Saturday by the International Olympic Committee, which allowed 22 North Korean athletes to take part in the games in exceptional entries given to the North.

Not all South Koreans are in the mood. There are apparently few objections to the North Korean presence at the Olympics itself, which likely ensures that the country holds off any significant weapons test or other aggressive acts that would risk disrupting the games.

Many South Koreans believe their government went too far by pushing athletes into a "political show" that will likely become meaningless once the lull in tensions breaks down after the Olympics.

Heo Doo-won, 40, a schoolteacher, didn't care for the reconciliatory gestures at all.

"Why are we doing this?" he asked. "We are clearly two different countries and it's better if things stay that way. I don't want a unified team or a unification flag. Why can't we just let the North

Koreans march under their own flag?"

While the liberal Moon remains a popular president nine months into his term, the controversy over the hockey team factored in his approval rating dipping below 70 percent for the first time in four months, according to a Gallup Korea report Friday.

Many people sympathize with the South Korean athletes who would likely be sacrificing opportunities for the North's players, who are considered less skilled and experienced. The IOC approved an expanded roster of 35 instead of 22 for the joint team, but only the normal number will be allowed to suit up for each game and three of them must be North Korean.

"I think it will be emotionally moving to watch the athletes of both Koreas march under the same flag during the opening ceremony as we come from the same nation," said Oh Ju-yeon, 46, a housewife. "But after the games, there will be bitterness from realizing that nothing's really going to change."

Jordan to Pence: 'Rebuild trust' after pivot on Jerusalem

Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — Jordan's king appealed Sunday to Vice President Mike Pence to "rebuild trust and confidence" in the possibility of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict following fallout from the Trump administration's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Pence, in turn, tried to reassure the monarch that the Trump administration remains committed to restarting Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts and views Jordan as a central player.

The vice president also said that "the United States of America remains committed, if the parties agree, to a two-state solution." Such a caveat deviates from longstanding U.S. support for a two-state solution as the only possible outcome of any peace deal.

Trump's pivot on Jerusalem infuriated the Palestinians, who seek the Israeli-annexed eastern sector of the city as a future capital. They accused the U.S. of siding with Israel and said Washington can no longer serve as a mediator.

Trump's Jerusalem policy shift set off protests and condemnation in Arab and Muslim countries.

It posed a dilemma for Abdullah, who is a U.S. ally but derives his political legitimacy in large part from the Hashemite dynasty's role as guardian of a key Muslim site in Jerusalem. Any perceived threat to Muslim claims in the city is seen as a challenge to Jordan,

where a segment of the population is of Palestinian origin.

Pence told Jordan's monarch on Sunday that Trump made it clear in his announcement on Jerusalem "that we are committed to continue to respect Jordan's role as the custodian of holy sites, that we take no position on boundaries and final status."

Abdullah expressed concerns about the regional fallout from the Jerusalem decision.

Another cause of concern for Jordan is the Trump administration's decision to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Jordan vehemently opposes such a move if taken ahead of an Israeli-Palestinian partition deal.

Palestinians view Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as a blatantly one-sided move.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said he would not meet with Trump administration officials and called off a meeting with Pence that had been scheduled for mid-December.

In a new expression of that snub, Abbas overlapped with Pence in Jordan from Saturday evening to midday Sunday, when the Palestinian leader flew to Brussels for a meeting with European Union foreign ministers Monday. There, Abbas is expected to urge EU member states to recognize a state of Palestine in the pre-1967 lines and to step up involvement in mediation.

Iran moving to loosen Guard's grip on economy

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran's supreme leader ordered the Revolutionary Guard to loosen its hold on the economy, the country's defense minister says, raising the possibility the paramilitary organization might privatize some of its vast holdings.

The comments this past weekend by Defense Minister Gen. Amir Hatami appear to be a trial balloon to test the reaction of the idea, long pushed by President Hassan Rouhani, a relative moderate. Protests over the country's poor economy last month escalated into demonstrations directly challenging the government.

But whether the Guard would agree remains unclear, as the organization is estimated to hold around a third of the country's entire economy.

Hatami, the first non-Guard-affiliated military officer to be named defense minister in nearly 25 years, made the comments in

an interview published Sunday by the state-run IRAN newspaper. He said Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered both the country's regular military and the Guard to get out of businesses not directly affiliated to their work.

He did not name the companies that would be privatized. The Guard did not immediately acknowledge the supreme leader's orders in their own publications, nor did Khamenei's office.

The Guard formed out of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution as a force meant to protect its political system, which is overseen by Shiite clerics. It operated parallel to the country's regular armed forces, growing in prominence and power during the country's long and ruinous war with Iraq in the 1980s. It runs Iran's ballistic missile program, as well as its own intelligence operations and expeditionary force.

The exact scope of all of the Guard's business holdings remains unclear, though analysts say they are sizable.

WORLD

Leap of FAITH

A man rides a horse through a bonfire as part of a ritual in honor of Saint Anthony the Abbot, the patron saint of animals, in San Bartolome de Pinare, Spain, on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY FRANCISCO SECO/AP



Horses jump through bonfire during ancient festival in Spain

Associated Press

H SAN BARTOLOME DE PINARES, Spain — Horses burst through the soaring flames of nighttime bonfires in a dramatic annual festival in this small Spanish town.

Riders urge their mounts toward the wood fires, lit in the cobble street, and say the smoke that envelops them purifies and protects the horses during the following year.

The bonfires are called "luminarias," and the Las Luminarias festival is believed to be centuries old. Some say it is related to ancient Catholic traditions of fighting disease through cleansing by smoke. It takes place every Jan. 16 on the eve of the annual remembrance of St. Anthony the Abbot, the patron saint of animals.

The celebrations also include plenty of music and wine, and they attract crowds to this town 60 miles northwest of Madrid.

The village is home to about 600 mostly elderly people, though many former residents who left to find work come back for the fiesta.

The horses were once used for work on local farms. But nowadays, they are expensive and prized possessions. They clop down the dark, cobble streets, past stone houses, before facing up to the crackling flames in front of a crowd of cheering people.

Animal rights groups have complained about the practice, but locals say the horses don't suffer.

Left: A man rides a horse through the fire. Right: A horse stands next to bonfires during the ritual.

A woman braids the hair of a horse before it jumps through the bonfires, called "luminarias."



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police dog chokes to death on ball

NY WATERTOWN — A police dog in northern New York state died during a training exercise.

The Jefferson County Sheriff said its office dog, a German Shepherd named Scout, was retrieving a ball Thursday afternoon when it got stuck behind the dog's teeth.

According to The Post-Standard of Syracuse, officers tried the Heimlich maneuver, CPR and mouth-to-nose resuscitation before rushing Scout to an animal hospital. By the time the dog arrived at the facility, it was too late; its airway had been blocked for too long.

Scout had worked with the sheriff's department for more than three years and was trained to detect explosives.

Town manager leads segregationist group

ME JACKMAN — The town manager of a rural Maine community says he's the leader of a racial segregationist group, and he believes the U.S. would be better off if people of different races were to "voluntarily separate."

Jackman town manager Tom Kawczynski wants to preserve the white majority of northern New England and Atlantic Canada, he has told the Bangor Daily News. He moved to Maine a year ago and launched a group called "New Albion" to promote what he calls "the positive aspects of our European heritage."

American Civil Liberties Union of Maine legal director Zachary Heiden said Kawczynski's attitudes and materials are "shockingly racist."

Police: Murder suspect may be tied to old case

FL DAYTONA BEACH — Authorities in Florida said a woman arrested for killing and dismembering her ex-boyfriend may be linked to another, 10-year-old case.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported that Neli Tetley, 67, is a person of interest in the 2007 death of Michael Scott Louis, whose chopped-up body was found in garbage bags along the Tomoka River.

Tetley was arrested Thursday and charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death of Jeffrey Albertsman, 55.

Daytona Beach police officers found Albertsman's body six months ago. He'd been shot in the head, and his arms and legs were missing. Albertsman's arms and legs were found about 10 miles from where Louis' body was discovered a decade earlier.

Police: Woman tells of body, then leads chase

NH NASHUA — Police in New Hampshire said a woman told them a man was shot fatally and was in her home, and then led them on a chase into Massachusetts and back before



RICHARD BRIAN, LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL/AP

Mayor multiplied

Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman looks inside an infinity box art display created by Matt Elson during a ground-breaking event in Las Vegas on Thursday for AREA15, a development project led by a joint venture between a real estate development firm and a creative agency.

she was arrested.

A body has not been found.

Police in Nashua said they had contact Wednesday with Carmella Vergez, 54, who told them about the death but drove off as they attempted to learn more. They said Vergez led them into neighboring Tyngsborough, Mass., where she caused a minor collision before driving back to Nashua, a total of about 20 miles.

Police said her car struck another car, and she ran down an embankment before being arrested. She faced charges of disobeying a police officer, conduct after an accident, resisting detention and arrest.

Fundraiser saves pony that lost part of penis

ME BRIDGTON — A Maine animal rescue group said it has raised enough money to save a 15-year-old pony that lost part of its penis due to cancer and frostbite.

Bridgton-based Animal Rescue Unit took over care of the pony that was suffering from cancer and an infection.

The animal, named Richard, will be spared from being euthanized thanks to a fundraising campaign that surpassed its goal

of raising \$4,000 for care, including reconstruction.

Officer guilty of threats to release photos of sex

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — An officer who threatened to send nude photos of his former girlfriend to their colleagues on a Florida police force has been found guilty of extortion.

The SunSentinel reported jurors took just 20 minutes Wednesday to decide that James Krey, 40, threatened to release the photos and a sex video unless she resigned from her position on the Davie Police Department.

He faces up to 15 years in prison when he's sentenced in February. The 26-year-old woman testified she met Krey when she was a rookie and their rocky relationship lasted more than a year.

Krey is free on a \$30,000 bond.

Man accused of killing 2 dogs over cat's death

VA CHRISTIANSBURG — Authorities said a Virginia man whose cat was killed by two Labrador retrievers pursued their owner and fatally shot the dogs.

The Roanoke Times reported Stephen Nichols Cook, 68, was convicted Tuesday of two misdemeanor charges in connection with the November incident and a judge sent felony charges against Cook to a grand jury.

The hearing featured testimony from several witnesses, who described how Cook and Arthur Hamrick had long been at odds, fueled by encounters between Cook's cats and Hamrick's dogs.

Cook's attorney, Richard Davis, said Cook was sorry the dogs had been killed and that his actions should be seen in the context of grief. Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Dean Manor said Cook chose "vigilante justice" over nonviolent avenues.

1 killed, 1 hurt during illicit sledding excursion

ME NEWRY — A teenage stunt in which two high school students sneaked onto a ski mountain for some illicit, late-night tubing ended in tragedy when the pair crashed into a tree, killing one and seriously injuring the other, officials said Wednesday.

The Sunday River ski mountain was closed and off limits when the crash was reported at 2 a.m.

Wednesday by a third person who was not on the inflatable tube, Oxford County Chief Deputy Hart Daley said.

Portsmouth High School Principal Mary Lyons confirmed that a senior, David Kohlhasse, 18, died in the crash and another student was hospitalized. The others weren't identified.

Statue honoring writer of anthem is defaced

MD BALTIMORE — A statue honoring the composition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" has been defaced in Baltimore.

News outlets reported that red paint was sprayed on the statue in Baltimore's Patterson Park. The words "Racist Anthem" were sprayed on a sidewalk leading up to the statue.

The statue was built in 1914, paid for with pennies collected by Baltimore schoolchildren.

In September, a city statue dedicated to the anthem's author, Francis Scott Key, was defaced.

Key, a slaveholder, wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" after witnessing the bombardment of Baltimore's Fort McHenry during the War of 1812.

From wire reports

FACES



NBCUniversal

The "WWE Monday Night Raw: 25th Anniversary" session at the NBCUniversal Press Tour this month featured WWE superstar and executive Paul "Triple H" Levesque, left; WWE superstar and executive Stephanie McMahon; WWE superstar Shawn Michaels; WWE superstar Mark Henry; WWE superstar The Miz; and WWE superstar Maryse. The anniversary show airs Monday in the U.S. "...[O]ur fans are our secret sauce," McMahon says. "...It's an arena full of people. They're cheering. They're booing. They're chanting. They're holding their signs. They're throwing their hands to their face in shock and awe if we're doing our jobs right." The series airs Tuesdays on AFN-Sports2.

By RICK BENTLEY
Tribune News Service

If you add it up, there have been more than 1,860 hours of the live professional wrestling series "WWE Monday Night Raw" since the USA Network and WWE joined forces 25 years ago. That's slightly under six times more than the 315 hours of original programming during the 29-year run of "The Simpsons." It's almost double the hours of "Saturday Night Live" during its 43 seasons.

Before you get upset talking about the professional wrestling program in comparison to scripted programming, WWE Chief Brand Officer Stephanie McMahon describes the program in such terms when talking about the anniversary episode scheduled for Monday in the U.S. "In essence, it's a mini movie every single Monday night. And when you think about the stories that we're able to tell, WWE is really no different than any television show that you've heard about," McMahon says. "It's protagonist versus antagonist, with conflict resolution. The only difference is that our conflicts are settled inside a 20-by-20-foot square ring with some of the greatest live action that you can see on television or any form of entertainment."

During the past 25 years, heroes and villains (often changing roles and the villain) such as The Rock, John Cena, Triple H, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, The Un-

Still fighting

TV show 'WWE Monday Night Raw' celebrates its 25th anniversary

dertaker and Shawn Michaels have been entertaining millions of viewers. "WWE Monday Night Raw" consistently ranks as one of the top shows in cable and helped make USA the most watched cable entertainment network for 12 years in a row.

The 25th anniversary telecast will take place from two New York venues—the Barclays Center and Manhattan Center, the site of the first episode of "Raw." Some of the biggest names from "Monday Night Raw" and "SmackDown LIVE" will take part.

McMahon credits her father, Vince McMahon, chairman and CEO of the company, with having the vision to create programming that not only survived for 25 years, but has grown massively in popularity. She

says her father has always said "it's important to have your finger on the pulse of the marketplace. And when you think about what's changed and evolved, well, WWE, one thing that will never change is that our fans are our secret sauce. And you picture 'Monday Night Raw.' It's an arena full of people. They're cheering. They're booing. They're chanting. They're holding their signs. They're throwing their hands to their face in shock and awe if we're doing our jobs right."

The passion for professional wrestling has been cultivated outside those arenas through feedback from focus groups and monitoring social media. John Cena, one of the biggest stars in professional wrestling,

is the most active American athlete in the United States when it comes to social media, and he's sixth among athletes in the world.

Paul "Triple H" Levesque suggests the influence of "Raw" goes beyond the sports world. He points to the way politicians will make an entrance with entrance music playing as if they were about to step into the ring at Madison Square Garden.

He adds, "It has changed the way we see live event television. It has changed the way the NFL is shot. The NBA is shot. The way they do their talent packages. The rollout of their performers onto a stage. If you go to an NBA game and you see them come out with pyro and music and end zone celebrations and all of it, it all stems from 'Monday Night Raw.'"

Generally, "Raw" has not changed much since that first live match a quarter of a decade ago. The main focus is always been wrestling matches between two or multiple opponents preceded by plenty of smack talk. One of the biggest changes has been in regards to the women, who have become as big in the wrestling game as the men.

McMahon told the women there was going to be the first-ever all-women's Royal Rumble match. "The reason why this is so significant is because there's been a tremendous movement ... that's happened in WWE where, even as late as 2015, our women were seen as secondary, tertiary-type characters," McMahon says.

Kristen Wiig sets TV return in Apple comedy from Reese Witherspoon

From wire reports

Reese Witherspoon has brought Kristen Wiig back to television.

Wiig will star in an upcoming half-hour comedy from Apple, produced by Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine, according to the Hollywood Reporter. The 10-episode series will be based on Curtis Sittenfeld's upcoming collection of short stories, "You Think It, I'll Say It," which "upends assumptions about class, relationships and gender roles in a nation that feels both adrift and viscerally divided."

The show marks Wiig's return to TV after seven seasons as a regular on "Saturday Night Live" from 2005 to 2012.

Apple expects to invest \$1 billion in original content this year, including a space series from "Battlestar Galactica" creator Ronald D. Moore, a futuristic drama from the director of some of the "Hunger Games" movies,

an unscripted series about "extraordinary homes" and a drama about network morning shows starring Witherspoon and Jennifer Aniston. The company is also reviving Steven Spielberg's anthology series "Amazing Stories."

Author accuses Michael Douglas of wrongdoing

Weeks after Michael Douglas denied allegations of sexual misconduct that weren't yet public, journalist and author Susan Braudy came forward with her claims. Braudy, who allegedly ran the New York office of Douglas' Stonebridge Productions in the 1980s, told the Hollywood Reporter that the actor used "near-constant profane and sexually charged dialogue," as well as demeaning comments about her look and use of "a crude word for female genitalia" on her first day of work.

The writer also claims that Douglas masturbated in front of

her during a one-on-one meeting in his New York apartment.

"Michael unzipped his chinos and I registered something amiss. Still complimenting my additions to our E.T. imitation, his voice lowered at least half an octave," she told the Hollywood Reporter.

"I peered at him and saw he'd inserted both hands into his unzipped pants. I realized to my horror that he was rubbing his private parts. Within seconds his voice cracked and it appeared to me he'd had an orgasm."

Braudy also claims that Douglas would brag about his affairs, including one with Kathleen Turner. Douglas and Turner starred in "Romancing the Stone" and the actress said in 2008 that she felt "serious stirrings" for him at the time.

On Jan. 9, Douglas issued a denial of the allegations, which had not yet been made publicly. "I will fess up to colorful language, but the issue of masturbating in front

of her? That rung is something I've only heard about the last year. It's not an expression that related to the '80s. So I thought it stunk," he told Deadline. "And I tried to figure out, why the hell would somebody do this?"

Other news

■ **GLAAD** says the depiction of gay-inclusive story lines in movies improved last year, allowing it to nominate five feature films including "The Shape of Water" and "Call Me By Your Name" for its GLAAD Media Awards. The nominations were announced Jan. 19.

■ **Paul Rudd**, the actor and screenwriter who stars in "Ant-Man" was named 2018 Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals on Jan. 18. Rudd, 48, will get his puding pot at Harvard on Feb. 2.

■ **Lupita Nyong'o** is working on a picture book. Simon & Schuster

Books for Young Readers announced Jan. 18 that Nyong'o's "Sulwe" will come out next January. According to the publisher, the Kenyan actress' debut book will be a story about "colorism," the favorable treatment given to people with lighter skin. Sulwe is a 5-year-old girl from Kenya coming to terms with her dark skin.

■ **Colin Firth** is the latest actor to refuse working with director Woody Allen after having starred in one of his films in the past. Firth, who starred in the filmmaker's 2014 flick "Magic in the Moonlight" told The Guardian he "wouldn't work with him again."

■ **Michael "The Situation" Sorrentino**, one of the stars of the "Jersey Shore" reality TV series, pleaded guilty Jan. 19 to one count of tax evasion and admitted concealing his income in 2011 by making cash deposits in amounts that would trigger federal reporting requirements. His sentencing was scheduled for late April.

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OPINION

Under Islam, Pulse shooter's wife also guilty

By QANTA A. AHMED
Special to The Washington Post

Her silence is a betrayal of all Muslims and puts all Americans at risk.

Documents released confirm that the wife of Omar Mateen, the Pulse nightclub shooter, knew of her husband's militant plans before he launched the June 2016 attack in Orlando, Fla., that left 49 victims dead and 58 wounded.

In her own written account, Noor Salman admits to knowing of his plans as they developed and, on the night of the attack, being aware that he was heading to the club to kill. Secular law must prosecute her to the fullest extent, holding her responsible for the deaths of 49 Americans.

But under Islam, Salman has violated numerous religious laws and mandates that also carry punishment. Salman may not have been a militant herself, but she failed to prevent jihad when she had a high degree of certainty her husband was going to commit atrocities. For this complicity and complacency, it is critical she is vilified — not only in the context of failing her duties as an American, but also to prevent Islamists (including Islamic State and its supporters) from seeking to lionize her as a heroine. We Muslims must also diminish and scorn her as a Muslim.

Islam sees her as unequivocally guilty. Salman failed in her duties as a Muslim to help society and to bear witness (including against her own kin) when injustice is done. Because of the decisions she made, our religion holds her responsible for the loss of human life, a failing in Islam considered punishable by death. The families of the murdered could stay execution by exercising the Islamic right of accepting "blood money" in lieu of capital punishment. (Islam decrees that only the relatives of the murdered can intercede on behalf of the murderer seeking forgiveness.)

Salman's actions are made more abhorrent because of the number of occasions when she could have alerted the authorities. If she had alerted police when he left for the club on the night of the murders,

We now know that female attackers are increasingly important to ISIS, so it is more essential than ever to prevent the lionization of Noor Salman as a female icon for militant sympathizers.

lives would have been spared. Instead, she continued to text him during the attack.

Islam determines Muslims have three duties: to oneself, to one's maker and to one's society. It is a Muslim's categorical duty to our surrounding society and the responsibility of Muslims to bear witness when crimes are being committed or have been committed, including bearing witness against a member of our own family.

Muslims have a duty not only to follow the laws of the United States, but also to make sure that our fellow Muslims do the same. Islam calls this obligation "commanding the right and forbidding the wrong." Widely documented in Islamic scripture, this duty is shared by both men and women.

Mateen's wife could not refuse to fulfill this duty — even if she hated Americans or gay people, who comprised most of her husband's victims — because when it comes to the defense of justice, Islam mandates impartiality. A Muslim cannot take sides when exposing injustice. He or she must cast aside his or her own prejudices or biases.

The Quran is clear on this: "And let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice."

Impartiality is essential to the believing Muslim because a Muslim's greatest allegiance should be to justice, above and beyond familial, tribal or coreligionist ties.

In a widely documented hadith, Prophet Muhammad, the messenger of Islam, re-

minded Muslims of this grave responsibility, even when they may not be able to act or speak up: "Whoever sees a wrong and is able to put it right with his hand, let him do so; if he can't, then with his tongue; if he can't, then in his heart, and that is the bare minimum of faith."

So by failing to act to prevent the attack, Salman became complicit in murder.

The role of Mateen's wife underscores the growing dilemma of the role of Muslim women in evolutionary jihadism, also known as "The Smarter Bomb." Once seen as invisible, women are no longer overlooked in terms of their potential for jihadism.

Certainly, women in militant families may feel — or actually be — powerless to change course, escape or notify authorities. They often lack pragmatic means to get away while also being culturally, tribally and ideologically bound to the militant himself.

And indeed, Salman's attorney has described Salman's marriage to Mateen as abusive and claimed that Salman was traumatized, and until just before the attacks, did not have financial autonomy in her marriage. She did become the beneficiary on his accounts and life insurance immediately before his barbaric actions.

We now know that female attackers are increasingly important to ISIS, so it is more essential than ever to prevent the lionization of Salman as a female icon for militant sympathizers.

Prosecuting Salman is essential for justice to be done to the families of the victims of the Pulse nightclub attack. How authorities act in the face of her complicity will be key to deterring other members of militant families in America from shielding the activities of would-be militants in the future.

In so doing, Muslims around the world will be rightly reminded of our Islamic duty to the societies we live in. We must defend against injustice and expose it not only as a matter of good citizenship, but also as a basic tenet of our great faith.

Qanta Ahmed is a physician, an associate professor of medicine at the State University of New York and a Ford Foundation Public Voices fellow.

Want to get wisdom? Try being your own crowd

By MARK BUCHANAN
Bloomberg View

Crowds of humans can be very good at solving certain kinds of problems. If, for example, you wanted to guess how many bacteria live in Lake Erie, you'd be better off asking a random group of people and averaging the result than trying to answer the question alone.

But what if you could be your own crowd, by averaging your own guesses? Bizarrely, research suggests that this can actually work.

The wisdom of crowds operates by exploiting the diversity of views. It's been used to improve economic forecasts, doctors' decisions and weather predictions. But we still have a lot to learn about how and when it works. It can go wrong if the people involved are all biased in similar ways, or if a person's choice influences others. It can work better if you ask people both what they think and what they expect the popular opinion to be, and look for discrepancies between two — a technique that draws out the knowledge of informed subgroups.

So how about using crowd wisdom without access to a crowd, harnessing the different perspectives that one person brings to a question at different moments? Psy-

chologists have been testing the idea in small experiments for several years. Recently researchers hit upon a great source of data: three separate contests at a Dutch casino, each offering a prize of 100,000 euros to the person who could come closest to guessing the number of pearls held in an oversized Champagne glass. About 160,000 people participated in each contest, and were able to guess repeatedly over a two-month period.

The researchers — psychologists Dennis van Dolder, of the University of Nottingham, and Martijn van den Assem, of the University of Amsterdam — found that peoples' errors tended to get smaller if they averaged over many guesses, and that the benefit grew with more guesses. It wasn't a matter of people learning over time — say, by consulting with others. Later guesses showed significant improvement in accuracy. It was only the average that became more accurate.

The research offered some insights into how individuals can improve their performance. Estimates were better, for example, when people took more time between guesses. This might help them have different thoughts or forget their previous line of thinking, increasing the independence of subsequent guesses and enhancing the diversity that makes crowd wisdom work.

Earlier studies, using much less extensive data, found something similar: Accuracy improves if people are encouraged to make estimates in different ways, using different evidence and strategies, a process psychologists call "dialectical bootstrapping."

Of course, considering a problem from as many angles as possible is a common habit of intelligent people and those who make good decisions.

Even so, you won't become a genius by drawing on your inner crowd. The casino study found that people's biases still led them astray, accounting for about 50 percent of the overall error in their guesses. No number of guesses can fix that, as they all come from the same biased person. So real crowds are still better: Guessing a dozen times can improve one person's estimate by about 40 percent; the same result can be achieved by averaging the guesses of two different people.

In short, although individuals can improve their performance, seeking the views of others is still a lot better than going it alone. It's a bit of a pity that people would do well to recognize: According to psychologists' studies, they still tend to stick too much to their own initial views.

Mark Buchanan, a physicist and science writer, is the author of the book "Forecast: What Physics, Meteorology and the Natural Sciences Can Teach Us About Economics."

OPINION

Bannon's executive privilege claims are reasonable

BY NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg View

Steve Bannon's claim of executive privilege in his refusal to answer questions last week from the House Intelligence Committee is raising a novel and somewhat difficult problem: Should there be executive privilege for communications between the president and his close advisers during the transition period between the election and the inauguration?

On the one hand, the president's need for candid advice starts before he takes office. On the other hand, there's something strange about applying a constitutionally based executive privilege to someone who is not, after all, the executive.

The only way to resolve the question is to delve into an issue that courts have tried to avoid, namely the underlying logic of having executive privilege at all.

The basic idea goes all the way back to George Washington, who strongly resisted House efforts to get hold of his correspondence with John Jay, the special representative who negotiated the controversial treaty that re-established relations between the U.S. and Britain after the Revolutionary War.

Washington's rationale was primarily functional. "The nature of foreign negotiations requires caution," he wrote to Congress in refusing the demand, "and their success must often depend on secrecy."

But Washington also hinted at a constitutional basis for his refusal by saying that he

had no intent to "withhold any information which the Constitution has enjoined upon the president as a duty to give." The implication was that the president had the right to keep his own diplomatic correspondence away from Congress.

A similar tension was manifest in the Watergate tapes case, U.S. v. Nixon, in which the U.S. Supreme Court finally recognized the executive privilege for the first time. The justices unanimously said that executive privilege was rooted in "the supremacy of each branch within its own assigned area of constitutional duties" and in the separation of powers.

Yet the court also held that, "absent a need to protect military, diplomatic, or sensitive national security secrets," executive privilege would not prevent disclosure of material necessary for criminal charges. This was pragmatic balancing, not abstract constitutional principle — and President Richard Nixon had to hand over the tapes.

When it comes to the period of the presidential transition, the issue of executive privilege may well depend on which matters more, pure separation of powers or practical interest.

If you think the executive privilege exists because the president can't be pushed around by Congress and the courts, then the Trump administration and Bannon shouldn't be able to take any refuge in executive privilege for anything that took place during the transition. During that time, Barack Obama was president. The foreign affairs power belonged to him, not

Trump.

This perspective is reflected in many Democrats' view that there was something wrong with Trump and his national security adviser-designate, Mike Flynn, trying to do foreign policy during the transition. There's only one president at a time, goes the thinking — so there should be only one foreign policy actor speaking on behalf of the executive.

Yet there is a nontrivial argument to be made that the transition is a crucial moment for coming foreign policy goals. Not only must the president choose his senior-most national security official, but he and they must go through a series of extremely detailed briefings on how U.S. foreign policy and military policy is being conducted. Then the president and his advisers presumably discuss those briefings in private.

Those briefings and discussions are just as instrumental to the shaping of foreign policy as anything that takes place after the president swears the oath of office. To the extent executive privilege is appropriate to protect a conversation that might take place after inauguration, it seems very sensible to apply the same logic to an identical conversation that takes place before the inauguration.

There's no simple answer here. But a solution might be found in extending the privilege to the transition, while simultaneously drawing the privilege very narrowly, even after the president takes office.

Consider the context of foreign affairs. There, the presidential power to make foreign policy is closer to exclusive than al-

most any other. And the questions from Congress that Bannon doesn't want to answer may well have to do with making foreign policy.

Yet the courts have also said that even on foreign policy, presidential power doesn't translate into absolute privilege. In a 1977 case, U.S. v. AT&T, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit pointed out that Congress still has national security-related powers, including the power to declare war and, in the case of the Senate, approve treaties. The court then refused to resolve a dispute about the privilege between Congress and the president until the two sides tried to negotiate a solution.

The upshot is that Congress has a role to supervise and participate in foreign policy — and so executive privilege shouldn't extend so far as to protect all conversations between the president and his advisers that might happen to touch on foreign policy.

That's especially true when the conversations might trench on criminal conduct. The leaders of the Watergate tapes case are surely that the executive branch may not hide behind privilege to cover up knowledge of crimes.

This proposed compromise may satisfy no one from a partisan perspective. But extending executive privilege to the transition while defining the privilege narrowly may well be what's best for the country — and national security.

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg View columnist. He is a professor of constitutional and international law at Harvard University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter.

Hill, agencies target home loan 'churning' aimed at vets

BY TOM PHILPOTT
Special to Stars and Stripes

Phone calls can begin only a day after veterans close on VA-guaranteed home loans. Brokers will claim they can offer an even lower interest rate, or a better strategy for refinancing, that will cut mortgage payments even more.

The practice is called serial refinancing, or home loan churning, and the goal is to generate profits for lenders. The side effects often are more home debt on veterans and more financial risks for their families.

The number of lenders aggressively targeting veterans with misleading refinance schemes has fallen to fewer than a dozen, said Jeffrey London, director of loan guaranty service at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

However, he told a House subcommittee this month, the VA is committed to better protecting veterans against remaining bad actors. Draft regulations will strengthen safeguards and raise awareness will be published soon, he promised.

Industry witnesses suggested stronger oversight can't come too soon for veterans and for investors in government-secured mortgages. Sounding the loudest alarm at the hearing was Michael R. Bright, chief executive officer for the Government National Mortgage Association. More commonly called Ginnie Mae, the agency provides government guarantees behind VA and other federal home loans.

"I believe 2018 will be a critical year" on the churning issue, Bright told the House Veterans Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee. "If we cannot get a handle on this behavior, abusive lending will continue to infect our market and our program. That could drive away important sources of capital and may create an environment where veterans are viewed as suitable prey for aggressive lending practices that target

MILITARY UPDATE

veterans "are alarming on so many levels," Bright said. He called loan churn "borderline predatory" behavior and "reminiscent of lending practices used by many in the industry prior to the 2008 financial crisis."

The sales pitch made to homeowners these days, with interest rates rising, typically involves variable interest rate loans or refinancing schemes that lower mortgage payments but raise loan amounts by rolling in new settlement fees or adding years to loan payoff periods.

Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke, ranking Democrat on the panel, urged the VA to require lenders to present in large type on Page One of mortgage documents the financial consequences of refinancing. Industry calls this a "net tangible benefit test."

Veterans would see at a glance not only how mortgage payments decline but how the size of loans grows, how payoff periods lengthen and how many months must pass before the savings of reduce payments recoup the costs of refinancing.

London said the VA already requires that such information appears on a document called the Interest Rate Reduction Refinance worksheet. Trouble is, London conceded, lenders need not show borrowers that worksheet until the day they close on a loan and face "a mountain of other paperwork that they don't read."

That is going to change, London promised. He already has decided to require lenders to provide that disclosure "up front." London said "VA will also get a copy of the same time so we can be the partner with the veteran... That's something I can do today, administratively, without any regulation or statutory changes."

"So when would that happen, O'Rourke asked.

"We have to make some system changes and, obviously, we have to put out some

guidance to lenders on what information we need... [My] goal is to make that happen this calendar year," London said.

"Seems like a relatively easy fix," O'Rourke said, clearly surprised a simple change would take the VA almost a year to execute.

The VA has been criticized in the past for ineffective action on the loan churning issue. In 2014, it issued a regulation to impose "seasoning" and "recoupment" requirements on lenders. The new rules said loans should be on the books at least six months before a refinancing, and all settlement fees rolled into the new loan should be recouped through lowered mortgage payments within 36 months.

Unfortunately, the regulation had no teeth. It continued to guarantee that home loans even if lenders didn't meet the new requirements.

Ginnie Mae can act more quickly. In February 2017, it told lenders that loans not meeting VA seasoning and recoupment rules set in 2014 would not be included in its "seasoned" loan pools for the secondary mortgage market. By October, the number of veterans getting more than one home loan per year was cut in half.

Bright told the subcommittee Ginnie Mae soon will be taking more steps against serial refinancing of VA loans. Lenders who "fail to provide the required 'net tangible benefit' notice" and their loans made ineligible for Ginnie Mae flagship security pools. Their alternative will be "custom pools" with loans that perform "materially different than our average," Bright said.

This will help prevent the bad actors of some "issue" loans from dampening "security pricing for those who use our program in a responsible manner," he said.

Rep. Joyce Arrington, R-Texas, subcommittee chairman, said he doesn't favor a legislative solution for loan churning without evidence lenders are being deceptive — with "holding critical information from borrowers."

"I feel our veterans are some of the toughest, mentally strong, morally competent... folks [who] have borne tremendous responsibility," Arrington said. If lenders are providing correct information to borrowers, "I have a hard time believing they are necessarily being taken advantage of."

If lenders are "holding out to do one thing and then they're doing another, that's a problem," Arrington said. "And if you can't stop that at the VA and Ginnie Mae, let's figure out how we can [with] an act of Congress... But to suggest they can't fend for themselves when reading what they're getting into, I struggle with that."

A dozen senators believe it is time for Congress to act. Sens. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., and Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., this month introduced their Protecting Veterans from Predatory Lending bill alongside 10 co-sponsors, an even split of Republicans and Democrats. Key provisions of the bill would:

■ Block veteran homeowners from refinancing within six months of original VA loan.

■ Mandate that lenders present a "net tangible benefits" summary for loan refinancing to clearly show the financial impacts.

■ Require that the interest rate on a refinanced VA loan be at least a half percentage point lower than the original loan rate.

■ Require that fees on the refinanced loan be recouped within 36 months.

"The way we feel about it," said Warren, "if the federal government is going to be helping these companies out [with loan guarantees], we think the refinancing should be in the interest of the company's interest but when it's in the interest of our veterans."

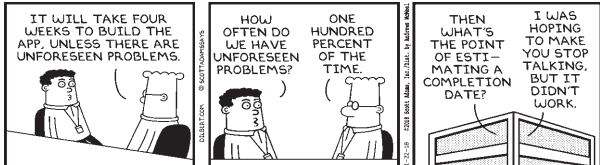
Congress often is bitterly divided. But on this issue, Tillis said, "we have an opportunity to show bipartisanship works."

Sent comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120; email mldupdate@aol.com; Twitter: @Military_Update.

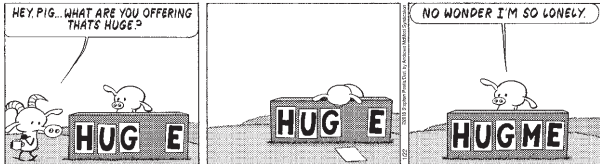
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Pearls Before Swine



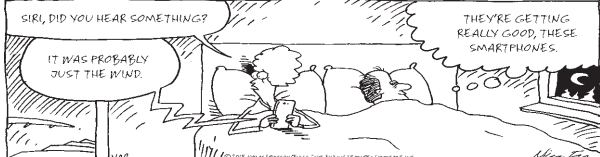
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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56				57				58				
59				60						61		

ACROSS

- 1 High tennis shot
- 4 Canine cry
- 7 — Martin (cognac)
- 11 Modern taxi rival
- 13 "Ben- —"
- 14 Pac-12 sch.
- 15 Taboo
- 16 Literary collection
- 17 Squarish
- 18 Manage to survive
- 20 Uppity one
- 22 "Humbug!"
- 24 Nativity display
- 28 Certain plotter
- 32 Disney mermaid
- 33 Indigent
- 34 "Uh-huh"
- 36 Poet Teasdale
- 37 Pueblo material
- 39 Decorate
- 41 Jungle expedition
- 43 Royal insomnia cause
- 44 Social standing
- 46 Surrounded by
- 50 Presidential power
- 53 Tonic's mixer
- 55 Turn the soil
- 56 "So be it"
- 57 Tram load
- 58 Fill fully

DOWN

- 1 Breathing organ
- 2 Bassoon's kin
- 3 Crooked
- 4 "Cagney" ya!"
- 5 Operates
- 6 Swiss money
- 7 Automatic approvals
- 8 Author Umberto
- 9 1060, to Cato
- 10 "Rah!"
- 12 Certain tycoons of the 1800s
- 19 Thanksgiving veggie
- 21 — pro nobis
- 23 "Psst!"
- 25 "Arrivederci!"
- 26 Medal earner
- 27 Flair
- 28 Hot tubs
- 29 Musical finale
- 30 Horseshoe site
- 31 Game official
- 33 Vigor
- 38 Historic time
- 40 Yacht spot
- 42 Gold mold
- 45 "Star Trek" captain
- 47 Skin-care brand
- 48 Memo
- 49 "Hollaback Girl" singer Stefani
- 50 Moving-day rental
- 51 Ostrich's kin
- 52 Sawbuck
- 54 Prefix with natal

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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1-22

CRYPTOQUIP

S O O X S V W N K F N Z Z V Q
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S Z K B D N P: P N L N S F Q S W L P S Q.
Saturday's Cryptquip: SMALL, STURDY PONY VARIETY THAT THRIVES BEST IN SWAMPY OR BOGGY REGIONS: THE WETLAND SHETLAND.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: F equals T


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Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Tax Assistance 940

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Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam flags are:

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Sports

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Pro football

NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs

Sunday, Jan. 13
Tennessee 22, Kansas City 21
Atlanta 26, Los Angeles Rams 13

Divisional Playoffs

Sunday, Jan. 14
Philadelphia 15, Atlanta 10
New England 35, Tennessee 14
Jacksonville 45, Pittsburgh 42

Conference Championships

Sunday, Jan. 21
AFC vs. Jacksonville at New England
NFC vs. Philadelphia at Minnesota

Super Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 4
AFC champion vs. NFC champion at Minneapolis

Deals

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
The Baltimore Orioles — Agreed to terms with C Aubrey Power. OF Darby Millsap, RF Eddie Gamboa and 3B Anderson Schick were released.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with OF Ben Reiter. OF Mike Cuddihy was released.
National League
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Agreed to terms with RF Ernesto Frieri on a minor league contract.

FOOTBALL
TENNESSEE TITANS — Named Mike Vrabel coach.

Baseball Football League
WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Signed QB Darrian Durant to a one-year contract.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
FREDRICK PREDATORS — Reassigned F Nicklas Gaudreau to AHL affiliate (AHL). Activated F Viktor Arvidsson from AHL.

Vegas Golden Knights — Assigned D Jason Garrison to Chicago (AHL).

WINNIPEG JETS — Recalled Jansen Harkins from Jacksonville (ECHL) to Manitoba (AHL).

Major League Soccer
LA GALAXY — Traded F Gyasi Zardes and targeted allocation money to Columbus Crew.

National American Soccer League
NEW YORK COSMOS — Signed a transfer fee for M Eric Carville with the San Jose (MLS).

COLLEGE
BIG TEN CONFERENCE — Suspended NDSU basketball player for one game, under the conference's suspension discipline process.

KANSAS — Announced freshman men's basketball F Billy Preston signed with BC Illinois (Division I).

NEW MEXICO — Named Calvin Magee offensive coordinator running back coach, Archie McDaniel outside and coordinator running back coach.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE — Promoted Bryan Ellis to quarterbacks coach and Kearny Smith to tight ends and inside receivers coach.

Boxing

Fight schedule

Jan. 27
At Rigra, Latvia, Oleksandr Usyk vs. Mairis Briedis. 12, for U.S. World Title. Briedis' WBC World cruiserweight title (World Boxing Super series semifinals).
Jan. 28
At Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Lucas Matthysse vs. Tewa Kiri, 12, for the vacant WBA World welterweight title; Jorge Benitez vs. Marcio Castro, 12, for the WBA World lightweight title; Yoshihiro Kamegai vs. Daquan Paulo, 10, junior middleweights.

Men's AP Top 25 fared

Saturday
1. Villanova (18-1) beat UConn 81-61.
New Providence 37, Kent State 49.

2. Virginia (17-1) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Sunday.
3. Purdue (19-2) beat Iowa 87-64. Next: vs. No. 23 Michigan, Thursday.

4. Oklahoma (14-4) beat No. 10 Oklahoma State 83-81. OT. Next: vs. No. 1 Kansas, Saturday.
5. Duke (17-2) beat Pittsburgh 81-54. Next: at Wake Forest, Tuesday.

6. West Virginia (16-3) beat Texas 86-51. Next: at No. 24 TCU, Monday.
7. Wichita State (15-4) lost to No. 4 Houston 79-59. Next: vs. UCF, Thursday.

8. Texas Tech (15-4) lost to Iowa State 70-52. Next: vs. Oklahoma State, Tuesday.
Michigan State (17-3) did not play. Next: at Illinois, Monday.

11. Xavier (18-3) beat No. 19 Seton Hall 70-67. Next: at No. 4 Oklahoma, Tuesday.
12. Tennessee 70, Mercer 56. OT.

13. Gonzaga (17-4) beat Santa Clara 86-60. Next: vs. Temple, Wednesday.
14. Arizona (16-4) beat San Francisco 73-71. Next: at Portland, Thursday.

16. North Carolina (16-4) beat Georgia Tech 80-66. Next: at Virginia Tech, Monday.
17. Arizona State (15-4) beat Georgia 79-65. Next: vs. Utah, Thursday.

18. Auburn (17-2) beat Georgia 79-65. Next: at Mississippi, Wednesday.
19. Kentucky (14-5) lost to Florida 66-64. Next: vs. Mississippi State, Friday.

20. Seton Hall (15-5) lost to No. 11 Xavier 73-64. Next: at DePaul, Sunday.
21. Iowa State 70, Kansas Tech 52.

22. Clemson (16-3) beat Notre Dame 67-58. Next: at No. 2 Virginia, Tuesday.
23. Arizona 68, Alabama A&M 52. OT.

24. Tennessee 13, Virginia Tech 70-40. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Tuesday.
25. Ohio State (17-4) beat Georgia 65-49. Next: vs. Nebraska, Monday.

26. Michigan (16-4) did not play. Next: vs. Rutgers, Sunday.
27. TCU (14-5) lost to Kansas State 73-68. Next: vs. No. 6 West Virginia, Sunday.

28. Miami (13-4) did not play. Next: at N.C. State, Sunday.

Saturday's men's scores

EAST
Alabama 68, Mississippi St. 62
Alcorn 68, Alabama A&M 52. OT.

SOUTHWEST
Alderson-Broaddus 81, Kentucky Wesleyan 77.
Allen 90, Tenn. Wesleyan 82.

Auburn 73, Austin Peay 59
Ark-La-Tex 67, Ga. Southern Western 69.
Belmont 83, Georgia 69.

Berea 67, Ferrum 73
Campbellville 66, Shawnee 58
Central 67, Kentucky 58.

Clemson 67, Notre Dame 57
Coppin 74, Morgan 37, 3T
Coppin 74, Morgan 37, 3T.

Duke 81, Pittsburgh 54
East Carolina 50, Cleveland 57
Florida 79, Charlotte 59.

Florida 66, Kentucky 66
Florida Gulf Coast 66, Kennesaw St. 49.
Florida St. 91, Virginia Tech 82.

Georgia 63, Georgia Southern 66
Georgia Tech 70, North Carolina 45.
Howard 88, N.C. Central 78, OT.

Jacksonville 68, E. Kentucky 66
Jannett 55, 74, Drexel 74, 45
John F. Culbertson (Tenn.) 68
Louisiana Tech 69, Rice 54.

Long 90, UAB 78
Maryville (Tenn.) 80, Averett 70.
Middle Tennessee 66, W. Kentucky 62.

Mississippi State 76, Drexel 74, 45
Mississippi College 87, Lee 75
Missouri 74, Tenn. Tech 55.
Murray St. 76, Tennessee St. 57.

North Carolina 74, Incarnate Word 70.
North Carolina 76, SC State 54.
North Carolina 60, Georgia Tech 66.

North Florida 70, U.S. State 80.
Old Dominion 73, FAU 62.
Ole Miss 55, Georgia Southern 69.

Richmond 81, La Salle 74
Richmond 81, La Salle 74
Savannah St. 70, Northern St. 58.

South Alabama 83, Appalachian St. 77
Southern Miss. 58, North Texas 74.
Southern U. 63, Alabama St. 61.

Tennessee 70, South Carolina 63
Tennessee 70, South Carolina 63
Transylvania 81, Bluffton 61.

Truett-Henry 81, Davis & Elkins 76
Tulsa 71, North Florida 69
Tulsa 71, North Florida 69.

UT Martin 73, UT Martin 73
UT Martin 73, UT Martin 73
UT Martin 73, UT Martin 73.

Furman 78, Samford 67

Georgia St. 63, Georgia Southern 66
Grambling St. 72, Jackson St. 49.
Howard 88, NC Central 78, OT.

Jacksonville 37, Kent State 49
James Madison 75, Drexel 73
Lipscomb 85, Stetson 82.

Marshall 86, UAB 87, OT
McKenna 74, W. Kentucky 62
Morehead State 74, Tennessee Tech 55.
New York 76, Tennessee Tech 55.

New Orleans 74, Incarnate Word 70
Northolt 78, SC State 54
North Texas 70, Georgia Tech 66.

North Florida 100, SC-Upstate 80
Ole Miss 55, Georgia Southern 69.
Richmond 81, La Salle 74.

SC Louisiana 85, Northwestern St. 58
Savannah St. 103, Hampton 101.
South Alabama 83, Appalachian St. 77.

Southern Miss. 58, North Texas 74.
Southern U. 63, Alabama St. 61.
Tennessee 70, South Carolina 63.

UCF 71, South Florida 69
UNC-Greensboro 70, Mercer 56, OT.
UNC-Wilmington 73, Towson 71, OT.

VCU 87, George Washington 63
VMI 88, The Citadel 81
Vanderbilt 17, LSU 71.

Wichita St. 70, Kansas Tech 52
Wofford 71, Chattanooga 67.

MIDWEST
Akron 82, N. Illinois 67
Bradley 86, Evansville 53.

Cal State 70, DePaul 67
CS Bakersfield 89, Chicago 78
Cincinnati 84, Georgia Tech 66.

Cincinnati 84, East Carolina 60
Drake 61, Missouri 51
Eastern Michigan 82, Dakota St. 88.

Grand Canyon 88, UMKC 69
Indiana 82, Cleveland St. 80
Indiana St. 64, Illinois 54.

Iowa St. 70, Kansas Tech 52
Kansas 70, Baylor 67
Kent State 70, Kansas Tech 52.

LIU Brooklyn 58, LIU Brooklyn 58
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Nearby's women's scores

AF-1
American U. 74, Lafayette 67.
Bethune-Cookman 68, Delaware St. 60.

Bryant 75, LIU Brooklyn 58
Bucknell 71, Holy Cross 47
Buffalo 87, Toledo 60.

Carleton 60, Monmouth (NJ) 48
Cornell 57, Columbia 47
Davidson 75, St. Bonaventure 68.

Fairleigh Dickinson 69, Sacred Heart 79
Harvard 76, Dartmouth 65
Jacksonville 88, NJIT 58.

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Golf

CareerBuilder Challenge

Saturday

La Quinta, Calif.

s-Stadium Course, Yardage 7,113; Par 72

La Quinta CC Course, Yardage 7,060;

—Niklaus Tourniere Course, Yardage

Third Round

Austin Cook 65-64-64-197

Andrew Land 63-67-70-198

Chris Padley 63-67-70-198

Scott Piercy 68-68-68-197

John Rahm 62-67-70-199

Adam Scott 68-68-68-197

Grayson Murray 65-68-67-190

Branden Harkin 68-68-68-190

James Kokrak 63-67-71-195

Joanna Power 68-68-68-197

Jonathan Veal 63-69-68-192

Branden Harkin 68-68-68-190

John Huh 68-68-68-192

Kevin Kisner 67-68-67-192

Michael Kim 67-68-67-192

Kevin Chappell 71-68-67-202

Stewart Cink 68-68-68-192

Charles Howell III 67-70-69-203

Ryan Palmer 69-67-70-203

Brian Harman 68-69-70-203

Lyorne Van Aswegen 68-71-69-204

Ricky Barnes 71-69-68-204

Andrew Putnam 69-68-69-204

Justin Timberlake 68-68-68-192

Hudson Swafford 69-68-68-192

Justin Timberlake 68-68-68-192

Russell Knox 69-68-71-204

Kevin Kisner 67-68-67-192

Jack Johnson 67-68-73-204

Wick Watson 67-67-72-204

Branden Harkin 68-68-68-190

Peter Uihlein 70-68-67-203

70-68-67-203

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC

‘Activities will cease’ due to shutdown

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — With just more than a week before the Far East wrestling championships are set to take place, Daegu senior Hunter Lane — and hundreds of other Pacific high school student-athletes — now have to wonder whether such events will happen.

Practices and regular-season basketball games and wrestling matches have been placed on hold due to the government shutdown, according to messages posted to the DODEA Headquarters and DODEA Pacific official Facebook pages.

That does not yet include Far East tournaments in basketball, scheduled for Jan. 29-Feb. 1, and wrestling, slated for Feb. 1-3. But it very well could, if the shutdown continues, DODEA officials said.

“I’ve heard about that chance,” said Lane, named Outstanding Wrestler at last year’s event. He plans to keep working out on his own “to get better no matter what

the circumstances. I don’t know. I’m hoping it all gets resolved.”

As a result of the Congressional impasse, “all of these activities will cease, to include

‘The seniors just wanted a final shot at the banner, something I personally have been waiting to finally take home.’

Isabel Tayag
Kadena senior

after-school practices, until the shutdown is complete and we return to normal work status,” a message from DODEA Pacific Region Director Lois J. Rapp said on DODEA Pacific’s Facebook page Sunday.

All athletics, academics and Junior ROTC activities will cease on Jan. 23,

according to an email sent to high school administrators by DODEA Pacific Athletics Coordinator Tom McKinney, a copy of

which was obtained by Stripes.

“This means no practice or games,” McKinney said, adding that he will “monitor the situation day-by-day” and keep schools informed.

Lane was not the only athlete or other interested party upset by the situation. Other seniors, in particular, voiced their anger.

“Everyone is a little in shock, and not really sure how to feel,” said Isabel Tayag, a senior forward for Kadena, hoping to regain the Far East Division I title it won in 2016.

“Us seniors are taking it harder,” said Tayag, who transferred to Kadena after her freshman and sophomore years at Edgren.

“The seniors just wanted a final shot at the banner, something I personally have been waiting to finally take home.”

Humphreys is undefeated in boys basketball this season and is aiming for a school-first Far East Division II title.

“It’s crazy,” senior swingman Brice Bulotovich said. “It’s a shame, too, because this is definitely Humphreys’ best team,

without a doubt. I guess that’s life, but this year’s Humphreys’ team is something different. I guess we can only hope all goes well.”

Yokota, too, was gunning to return to the top of the Division II heap.

“My team and I, we’ve worked really hard toward the goal of being Far East champions, and to see this dream affected by this situation is disheartening,” Panthers junior forward Renyck Robertson said.

Victor Rivera became coach of Daegu girls basketball this season, a team that ended a 30-game losing skid in November. He expressed anger over the government’s “inability” to come to an agreement and its effect on student-athletes.

“The girls had their heart set on competing in Far East, working hard all season,” Rivera said. “It just doesn’t seem fair that their lives, as well as so many others, are impacted, yet the lives of the people who caused this go on as usual.”

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND

Wyche flashes MVP form, makes Kadena contender

TOKYO — Rhamsey Wyche showed on Saturday she’s regained her form of two seasons ago. And she has perhaps boosted Kadena into contention for the Panthers’ second Far East Division I title in three seasons.

The senior guard stepped a Saturday in which she hit 12 three-point goals in four games, netting 22 points, including four threes, and helping the Panthers rally from a seven-point second-quarter deficit for a 45-35 win over Academy of Our Lady of Guam.

The win gave the Panthers the title in the 2nd American School in Japan Kanto Classic. And it answered questions that some observers had about Wyche perhaps not playing up to her pace of 2015-16.

“This year, I have a lot to give, especially for losing last year” in the Far East final 52-31 to American School of Bangkok. Wyche was named the 2016 MVP when the Panthers won the title.

After averaging just more than 10 points a game in November and December, Wyche broke out for 31 and 21 points in two games against Taipei American School and averaged 18 points in the three-day Kanto Classic.

“I just try to come out and prove a point, that I still have it, that Kadena still has it and that we’re going to come and get it,” she said.

Korina Macato broke a 28-28 tie with a three that put Kadena ahead to stay 31-28 with 1:50 left in the third quarter. Wyche hit a three from the left baseline that gave the Panthers their biggest lead, 39-29, with 5:20 left. Wyche was named the Player of the Tournament.

Kubasaki: The boys final was no contest from the start, as the host Mustangs roared ahead by 17 points after one half against the Dragons en route to a 55-33 win. The Dragons spurted briefly in the

third quarter, but couldn’t overcome the slow start. Elonzo Higginson III led the Dragons with seven points.

E.J. King: Make it two straight Western Japan Athletic Association tournament titles for the Cobras boys, who were joined by King’s girls in the winner’s circle this year. Dyson Robinson averaged 22.5 points and Gabi Shultz 18.5 during Saturday’s semifinal and final victories.

Kinnick: Though the Red Devils came in second, 94-91, to host St. Mary’s, Kinnick did get weight-class titles from Devonny Stanley (135 pounds), Jacob

Castro (148), Darius Swenson (158) and Chris Mason (215) in Saturday’s Kanto Plain wrestling finals.

Yokota: Panthers’ wrestling stood strong top and bottom in Saturday’s Kanto finals. Caleb Heino won the 101-pound weight-class title and Jalen Harrison took top honors in the heavyweight category.

Zama: The Kanto Classic was something of a struggle for the Trojans boys, who came away winless in five games. Jeremiah Stewart led Zama with nine points in a losing cause as the Trojans fell 49-36 to Yokota in the first playoff round on Saturday.

Perry: In their final tune-up for the Far East tournament Feb. 1-3 at Kinnick, the Samurai captured four weight-class titles in their own invitational tournament with triumphs from Mason Graydon, Brad Ponsiano, Andrew Borrero and Marshall China.

Edgren: After going 4-0 to win their pool in the Kanto Classic, the Eagles girls came back down to earth in Saturday’s quarterfinals, losing to eventual champion Kadena 43-32. Karen Anas had 11 points, seven in the first quarter, for the Eagles.

Seoul American: In their penultimate tune-up for the Far East tournament, the Falcons got weight-class victories from four wrestlers at an individual freestyle tournament in Cheonan: Maxwell Harding, Ty White, Amos Marville and Brenton Carver.

Osan: Maja Inthavithay, Lizzy White, Alexis Rosenthal and Christina Hoff each had nine points as the Cougars girls basketball team downed Humphreys 40-

22 Saturday.

Humphreys: Quintin Metcalf continues to do damage inside, but Brice Bulotovich has stepped up with an ability to score, rebound and find the open man.

The senior averaged 18.5 points, six rebounds and seven assists in the Blackhawks’ two weekend wins, by an average of 42.5 points.

Daegu: It was an up-and-down weekend for the Warriors girls basketball squad, which survived a Seoul Foreign fourth-quarter rally for a 36-31 win Friday, only to lose 44-40 the next day to Yongsan. Daija Turner averaged 18 points and Bethani Newbold 16.

Daegu: It was an up-and-down weekend for the Warriors girls basketball squad, which survived a Seoul Foreign fourth-quarter rally for a 36-31 win Friday, only to lose 44-40 the next day to Yongsan. Daija Turner averaged 18 points and Bethani Newbold 16.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena’s Rhamsey Wyche, named the Player of the Tournament, puts up a layup against Academy of Our Lady of Guam during Saturday’s final in the 2nd American School in Japan Kanto Classic. The Panthers downed the Cougars 45-35.

— Stars and Stripes

HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND

Baumholder boys still unbeaten in D-III

Undefeated frontrunners strengthened their grip on divisional leads and rising contenders improved their standing over the weekend as the DODEA Europe basketball season moved to within a month of the Feb. 21-24 European tournament.

Alconbury: The Dragons stood idle among a frenzy of DODEA Europe action this weekend. But a busy stretch run awaits, including dates with Division III opponents Baumholder and Brussels and larger rivals AFNORTH, Lakenheath and SHAPE.

AFNORTH: The Lions were the clear standout of the weekend's four-team girls basketball gathering in Aviano. AFNORTH beat the host Saints 34-19 on Friday and handled AOSR 27-17 on Saturday.

American Overseas School of Rome: The Falcons boys and girls teams were held winless in four combined games at Aviano this weekend. AOSR gets another chance to improve its Division II stature when it hosts a similar four-team meetup Feb. 2-3.

Ansbach: The Cougars took a break from DODEA Europe boys basketball competition to rout local opponent Franconian International 53-13 on Saturday. The squad returns to league play next weekend with a visit to Division III rival Baumholder.

Aviano: Though it lost more than it won on the court, the school took center stage over the weekend in hosting a two-day, four-school Division II hoops meet. The Saints' 53-43 boys win over AFNORTH provided a home-team highlight.

Baumholder: The Bucs remained undefeated with Friday and Saturday boys basketball wins over Brussels. Only Ansbach and Alconbury now stand between Baumholder and a perfect Division III record.

Brussels: The Brigands girls basketball team throttled visiting Baumholder by scores of 31-9 and 27-14 over the weekend. Brussels now owns a six-game winning streak and hasn't lost since Dec. 8.

Black Forest Academy: The defending Division II champion Falcons girls earned a quality win over a solid

Division I opponent on Saturday. BFA handled Kaiserslautern 39-29, avenging the narrow 34-32 loss it suffered to the Raiders the night before.

Hohenfels: The Division III Tigers are in the midst of a rigorous upper-division basketball schedule that includes Division I opponents Vilsack and Stuttgart and Division II powerhouse Black Forest. They'll next see a similar-sized rival in a home-and-home series with Ansbach on Feb. 16-17, the last two days of the regular season.

Kaiserslautern: The Raiders earned proficient 65-57 and 57-41 wins over reigning Division II boys champion Black Forest. They'll look to extend the win streak next weekend against struggling divisional rival SHAPE.

Lakenheath: The Lancers visited Wiesbaden for a Friday-Saturday girls basketball set that ended being perhaps the most competitive of the DODEA Europe season. Lakenheath won by a basket in a 43-41 decision Friday, and lost by the same margin in a 42-40 result Saturday.

Marymount: The Royals earned the victory in one of the longest, most evenly-matched games of the boys basketball season Friday. Marymount outlasted visiting Sigonella 58-57 after three overtime sessions.

Naples: The last unbeaten team in the Division I girls hoops race seems to grow stronger by the week. The Wildcats shredded Vicenza, the only other Division I school in Italy, by scores of 55-28 and 61-45 to clinch a perfect divisional record.

Ramstein: The Royals overwhelmed visiting SHAPE in both boys and girls hoops. The Ramstein boys earned 61-25 and 58-13 victories, while the girls triumphed by scores of 50-33 and 47-8.

Rota: The Admirals commandeered the Division II hoops event in Aviano this weekend, posting four combined boys and girls wins in as many games. Both Rota squads cruised to matching defeats of AOSR and host Aviano.

Spangdahlem: The Sentinels are the last remaining Division II boys basketball team with an undefeated overall record. Spangdahlem hosts solid Division



KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Rota's Antonio White lofts a shot over American Overseas School of Rome's Giacomo Morici in the Admirals' 54-28 victory over the Falcons on Friday at Aviano Air Base, Italy.

sion III program Brussels on Friday and Saturday before heading to Rome for a key four-team divisional set Feb. 2-3.

SHAPE: A weekend trip to Ramstein didn't go in the Spartans' favor as the visitors took four combined boys and girls basketball losses. SHAPE tries again next weekend, making a return visit to the Kaiserslautern Military Community for a set with the homesteading Raiders.

Sigonella: The Jaguars posted a clean set of wins after taking their first girls basketball loss of the season the prior weekend. Sigonella travelled to Rome and returned with 42-16 and 27-21 wins over Marymount.

Stuttgart: The Panthers were inactive on the basketball court over the weekend, but they've got plenty on their plate in the season's final weeks. Division I matchups with Wiesbaden, Kaiserslautern and Vilsack highlight the school's remaining schedule.

Vicenza: The Cougars played regional and divisional rival Naples to a standstill in a boys basketball double-header over the weekend. Vicenza struck first with a 40-39 win Friday before Naples responded with a 63-51 Saturday victory.

Vilsack: After tangling with nearby Division III opponent Hohenfels over the weekend, the Falcons sink their talons into a bigger target next weekend. Ramstein, DODEA-Europe's largest school, visits for boys and girls hoops action Friday and Saturday.

Wiesbaden: The Warriors preserved the last unbeaten record in Division I boys basketball with a steady Friday-Saturday sweep of Lakenheath. Games against Stuttgart, Vilsack, Ramstein and Kaiserslautern remain on a still-challenging upcoming schedule for the first-place squad.

— Stars and Stripes

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NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	D	OT	Pts
Tampa Bay	45	31	10	8	162	150	112		
Boston	45	27	10	8	162	150	112		
Toronto	45	27	10	8	162	150	112		
Florida	45	20	19	6	144	129	148		
Montreal	45	19	22	6	144	129	148		
Detroit	45	18	20	7	142	138	139		
Carolina	44	15	20	9	121	157			
Washington	46	11	26	5	103	172			

Metropolitan Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	D	OT	Pts
New Jersey	45	24	13	8	156	142	137		
Winnipeg	45	23	14	8	156	142	137		
N.Y. Rangers	47	24	18	5	153	142	136		
Pittsburgh	49	25	21	3	152	140			
Philadelphia	46	22	22	6	152	139			
N.Y. Islanders	48	24	20	4	152	168	176		
Carolina	46	21	17	8	159	129	141		

Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	D	OT	Pts
Nashville	45	28	11	6	162	139	119		
NHL	45	27	10	8	162	150	112		
St. Louis	49	28	18	3	159	142	129		
Dallas	48	27	17	4	158	148	129		
Colorado	45	26	16	9	156	139	130		
Minnesota	47	25	17	6	155	138	132		
Chicago	46	22	18	6	150	139	130		

Pacific Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	D	OT	Pts
Vegas	45	28	14	6	156	122	132		
San Jose	45	24	14	6	156	128	122		
Calgary	46	25	16	5	153	127	127		
Los Angeles	46	22	17	8	153	131	117		
Anaheim	47	22	16	9	153	129	129		
Edmonton	47	22	16	9	153	129	129		
Vancouver	46	18	22	6	142	152	152		
Arizona	48	18	22	6	142	152	152		

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Friday's games
Florida, 4 Vegas, 3 OT
Montreal, 3 Washington, 2
Anaheim, Los Angeles, 1

Saturday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Sunday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Monday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Tuesday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Wednesday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Thursday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Friday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Saturday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Sunday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Monday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Tuesday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Wednesday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Thursday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Friday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Saturday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Sunday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Monday's games

Philadelphia, 2 New Jersey, 1
Dallas, 7 Buffalo, 1
Montreal, 3 Calgary, 1 SO
Colorado, 3 N.Y. Rangers, 1

Islanders 3, Blackhawks 3

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	D	OT	Pts
Islanders	45	31	10	8	162	150	112		
Blackhawks	45	27	10	8	162	150	112		

First Period—1, Chicago, Kane 19 (Schmaltz, Gustafsson), 1:01. 2, N.Y. Islanders, Beaulieu 9 (Nelson, Pulock), 4:35 (pp.). 3, N.Y. Islanders, Eberle 16 (Pulock, Barzila), 10:31. 4, N.Y. Islanders, Pulock 4 (Quinn, McGinn), 18:02.

Second Period—5, N.Y. Islanders, Beaulieu 10 (Pulock, Barzila), 1:25 (pp.). 6, Chicago, Gustafsson 1 (Kane, Schaubrook), 16:27.

Third Period—5, N.Y. Islanders, Nelson 10 (Johnston, Pulock), 1:52. 8, Chicago, Kane 4 (S.S., N.Y. Islanders, Lee 27 (Ledy, Tavares), 7:10. 10, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 26 (Bailey), 10:30.

Shots on Goal—Islanders 19-14. 13—46, Chicago 13-8—18—39. **Power-play opportunities**—N.Y. Islanders 2 of 4; Chicago 0 of 1.

Goals—N.Y. Islanders, Hask 14-14-2 (39 shots-36 saves), Chicago, Glass 3-2-1 (11-9), Forsberg 3-7-3 (35-30).
A—21,582 (15,170, 7, 2-24).

Bruins 4, Canadiens 1

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	D	OT	Pts
Bruins	45	28	11	6	162	139	119		
Canadiens	45	27	10	8	162	150	112		

First Period—1, Montreal, Pacioretty 15 (Byron, 11:28, 2, Boston, Pastrnak 4 (Bergeron, Krug), 14:09. 3, Boston, Krug 7 (Marchand, Pastrnak), 15:56.

Second Period—1, Montreal, Pastrnak 20 (Krejci, Krug), 17:03. 5, Boston, Nash 6 (Mihalik, Pastrnak), 19:21.

Third Period—1, Montreal, Pastrnak 20 (Krejci, Krug), 17:03. 5, Boston, Nash 6 (Mihalik, Pastrnak), 19:21.

Shots on Goal—Islanders 19-14. 13—46, Chicago 13-8—18—39. **Power-play opportunities**—N.Y. Islanders 2 of 4; Chicago 0 of 1.

Goals—N.Y. Islanders, Hask 14-14-2 (39 shots-36 saves), Chicago, Glass 3-2-1 (11-9), Forsberg 3-7-3 (35-30).
A—21,582 (15,170, 7, 2-24).

Predators 4, Panthers 3

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	D	OT	Pts
Predators	45	28	11	6	162	139	119		
Panthers	45	27	10	8	162	150	112		

First Period—1, Nashville, Fiala 12 (Jankovic, Bonino), 0:36. 2, Nashville, Tuck 18 (Dadonov, Huberdeau), 11:16 (pp.). 3, Florida, Mackenzie 2 (Weegar, Sevcenko), 16:33.

Second Period—4, Nashville, Bonino 7 (Jankovic, 1:24, 5, Nashville, Fiala 13 (Bonino, Jankovic), 10:53. 6, Nashville, Subban 10 (Turris, Smith), 16:29.

Third Period—7, Florida, Vukobrat 4 (Dadonov, Ekblad), 8:34.

Hurricanes 3, Red Wings 1

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	D	OT	Pts
Hurricanes	45	31	10	8	162	150	112		
Red Wings	45	27	10	8	162	150	112		

First Period—1, Carolina, Lindholm 14 (faulk, Teravainen), 6:54 (pp.). 4, Carolina, Williams 8 (Rask, McGinn), 18:02.

Second Period—1, Carolina, Lindholm 14 (faulk, Teravainen), 6:54 (pp.). 4, Carolina, Williams 8 (Rask, McGinn), 18:02.

Third Period—1, Carolina, Lindholm 14 (faulk, Teravainen), 6:54 (pp.). 4, Carolina, Williams 8 (Rask, McGinn), 18:02.

Shots on Goal—Carolina 13-9-30. 24 (shots-23 saves). Detroit, Howard 14-15-36 (30-27).
A—19,515 (20,000, 2)—2:28.

Jets 2, Flames 1 (SO)

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	D	OT	Pts
Jets	45	28	11	6	162	139	119		
Flames	45	27	10	8	162	150	112		

First Period—1, Calgary, Brodie 3 (Brouwer), 8:17.

Second Period—2, Winnipeg, Perreault 14 (Ehlers, Little), 10:47.

Third Period—1, Calgary, Brodie 3 (Brouwer), 8:17.

Shots on Goal—Calgary, Brodie 3 (Brouwer), 8:17.

Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 3 of 2; Calgary 0 of 4.

Goals—Calgary, Brodie 3 (Brouwer), 8:17.

Shots on Goal—Calgary, Brodie 3 (Brouwer), 8:17.

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Goals—Calgary, Brodie 3 (Brouwer), 8:17.

Shots on Goal—Calgary, Brodie 3 (Brouwer), 8:17.

Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 3 of 2; Calgary 0 of 4.



Maple Leafs defenseman Connor Carrick (8) is congratulated by Travis Dermott after scoring the go-ahead goal Saturday during the third period against the Senators in Ottawa, Ontario.

Roundup

Carrrick Leafs snapping skin

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Patrick Marleau simply opened his mouth, and that was enough to spark Toronto's comeback.

Connor Carrick snapped the tie midway through the third period and the Maple Leafs scored three times in the final frame to rally past the Ottawa Senators 4-3 on Saturday night.

The win stopped a four-game losing streak for the Maple Leafs, who also got third-period goals from Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner. Zack Hyman scored in the first, Jake Gardiner had three assists and Frederik Andersen made 15 saves.

Toronto went into the second intermission down 3-1 and got an earful from a respected veteran after returning to the ice.

"When Patrick Marleau steps up to say something in the locker room, guys listen," Matthews said. "He's a pretty soft-spoken guy but when he says something you have to listen up and he kind of got the ball going."

Erik Karlsson, Mike Hoffman and Tom Pyatt scored to give the Senators a 3-1 lead through 40 minutes. Craig Anderson made 29 saves.

Carrick took a wrist shot from the point that went over Anderson's shoulder and in at 8:58 of the third. The Ottawa netminder didn't appear to be screened.

Avalanche 3, Rangers 1: Nathan MacKinnon, Erik Johnson and Mikko Rantanen each had a goal and an assist, Jonathan Bernier made 27 saves and the streaking host Colorado earned their ninth consecutive win.

Bruins 4, Canadiens 1: David Pastrnak scored twice and set up another goal to help surging Boston beat host Montreal for the third time in eight days.

Flyers 3, Devils 1: Travis Konecny had a goal and an assist, Michal Neuvirth made 28 saves and host Philadelphia scored all its goals in the first period.

Stars 7, Sabres 1: Mattias Janmark had two goals and an assist, and Esa Lindell added a goal and two assists as Dallas routed host Buffalo.

Hurricanes 3, Red Wings 1: Elias Lindholm's second goal of the game broke a third-period tie for visiting Carolina.

Wild 5, Lightning 2: Zach Parise scored his first goal of the season and host Minnesota beat suddenly sputtering Tampa Bay.

Islanders 7, Blackhawks 3: Rookie defenseman Ryan Pulock had a goal and a career-high four assists, Anthony Beaulieu scored two power-play goals and New York beat slumping host Chicago.

Sharks 2, Penguins 1: Tomas Hertl scored a tiebreaking, power-play goal early in the third period and Aaron Dell made 31 saves to lead host San Jose over Pittsburgh in a rematch of the 2016 Stanley Cup Final won by the Penguins.

Coyotes 5, Blues 2: Christian Dvorak scored twice and Antti Raanta made 25 saves to help Arizona beat host St. Louis.

Predators 4, Panthers 3: P.K. Subban scored to cap a three-goal second period for host Nashville, and the Predators beat Florida for their fifth straight victory.

Jets 2, Flames 1 (SO): Bryan Little and Blake Wheeler scored in the shootout and Winnipeg ended host Calgary's seven-game winning streak.

Oilers 5, Canucks 2: Jesse Puljujarvi had a goal and two assists, Patrick Marleau scored twice for host Edmonton.

MATT SLOCOM/AP

COLLEGE BASKETBALL/NFL/UFC



JESSICA HILL/AP

Villanova's Mikal Bridges, left, looks to pass while Connecticut's Isaiah Whaley, Josh Carlton, and Christian Vital, right, defend, during Saturday's game in Hartford, Conn.

Top 25 roundup

Top-ranked Villanova routs former Big East rival UConn

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Jalen Brunson scored 23 points and top-ranked Villanova routed former Big East rival UConn 81-61 on Saturday.

Donte DiVincenzo added 17 points for the Wildcats (18-1), who complete their non-conference schedule at 13-0.

Jalen Adams scored 19 for UConn (10-9), which has now lost five games this season by at least 20 points.

The Wildcats hit just two of their first 13 shots, but still led 13-5 after a pair of three-pointers by DiVincenzo. A jumper from Adams brought the Huskies within five points at 21-16.

But Villanova scored 18 of the final 20 points before intermission, and the rout was on.

No. 3 Purdue 87, Iowa 64: Carsten Edwards scored 22 points and Vincent Edwards had 19 Saturday, leading the visiting Boilermakers to their 15th straight victory.

Oklahoma State 83, No. 4 Oklahoma 81: Trae Young scored 48 points, but missed a deep three at the buzzer in overtime as the Sooners fell to the host Cowboys.

No. 5 Duke 81, Pittsburgh 54: Freshman Wendell Carter Jr. had 21 points on 9-for-10 shooting while the host Blue Devils shot 52 percent in a win over the Panthers.

No. 6 West Virginia 86, Texas 51: Jevon Carter scored 22 points and led a big second-half run that propelled the Mountaineers to victory over the visiting Longhorns.

Houston 73, No. 7 Wichita State 59: The seventh-ranked Shockers lost their second straight game as the Mustangs beat a Top 10 team for the first time in 22 years, with Rob Gray scoring 24 points.

Iowa State 70, No. 8 Texas Tech 52: Freshman Cameron Lard scored 18 points and the host Cyclones cruised past the Red Raiders for their first win over a ranked opponent this season.

No. 10 Kansas 70, Baylor 67: Malik Newman scored seven of his game-high 24 points in the closing minutes, the visiting Bears turned the ball over on the final inbound play and the Jayhawks rallied to beat Baylor.

No. 11 Xavier 73, No. 19 Seton Hall 64: JP Macura scored a season-high 27 points and the Muska-

teers handed the Pirates their first loss at home by rallying from a 10-point second-half deficit.

No. 12 Cincinnati 86, East Carolina 60: At Highland Heights, Ky., Jacob Evans and Kyle Washington each scored 17 points, and Gary Clark had 14 points and 14 rebounds, lifting the Bearcats past the Pirates.

No. 13 Gonzaga 75, Santa Clara 60: Zach Norvell Jr. scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half, and the visiting Bulldogs bounced back from their first conference loss of the season to beat the Broncos.

No. 14 Arizona 73, Stanford 71: Rawle Alkins made a go-ahead layup with 38 seconds remaining, and the host Wildcats held on for a comeback win over the Cardinal to take sole possession of first place in the Pac-12.

No. 15 North Carolina 80, Georgia Tech 66: Luke Maye had 17 points and 11 rebounds, and the Tar Heels beat the visiting Yellow Jackets.

No. 16 Arizona State 81, California 73: Tra Holder and Remy Martin scored 13 points apiece, and the visiting Sun Devils overcame a slow start to beat the Golden Bears.

No. 17 Auburn 79, Georgia 65: Bryce Brown scored 28 points and the host Tigers rallied in the second half to beat the Bulldogs.

Florida 66, No. 18 Kentucky 64: Jalen Hudson came off the bench to score 17 points, and Chris Chizwa, Keith Stone and Kevarrus Hayes contributed clutch baskets down the stretch as the visiting Gators rallied to upset the Wildcats.

No. 20 Clemson 67, Notre Dame 58: Gabe DeVoe had 17 points, including a crucial three-pointer with 3:18 to go, and the host Tigers got their first-ever win over the Fighting Irish.

No. 21 Tennessee 70, South Carolina 63: Lamonte Turner matched his career high with 25 points, and the visiting Volunteers pounded the ball inside to get past the Gamecocks.

No. 22 Ohio State 67, Minnesota 49: At New York, Keita Bates-Diop had 17 points and 12 rebounds for his eighth double-double of the season, leading the Buckeyes over the Golden Gophers at Madison Square Garden for their seventh straight win.

Kansas State 73, No. 24 TCU 68: Dean Wade scored 20 points and the host Wildcats beat the Horned Frogs.

Titans hire Vrabel after quick search

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans hired Houston defensive coordinator Mike Vrabel as their new coach in a fast search that wrapped up after three interviews and just five days after firing Mike Mularkey.

The Titans announced Saturday they have agreed to terms with Vrabel. A news conference was scheduled for Monday.

Vrabel was the first person Tennessee interviewed after firing Mularkey on Monday. Mularkey, who also coached Buffalo and Jacksonville, went 21-22 and led the franchise to its first playoff

victory in 14 years. This will be Vrabel's first head coaching job after 18 years in the NFL — 14 as a player and four as a coach.

Titans owner Amy Adams Strunk said in a statement it was easy to see Vrabel's commanding presence and relationship with general manager Jon Robinson. The GM got his start in the NFL as a scout with the New England Patriots, where Vrabel won three Super Bowls as a linebacker.

"Mike has a commanding presence and a deep understanding for how he will attack this head coaching opportunity," Strunk said.

The Titans became the seventh NFL team to change coaches since the start of the season, and now they are the third to hire their replacement, joining Oakland and Chicago. The Indianapolis Colts are closing in on Josh McDaniels but can't hire him until the Patriots' season ends. Arizona, Detroit and New York Giants have yet to hire new coaches.



Vrabel



GREGORY PAPAN/AP

Stipe Miocic, right, lands a right hand against Francis Ngannou during a heavyweight championship bout at UFC 220 in Boston. Miocic retained his title via unanimous decision.

Miocic, Cormier defend heaviest titles at UFC 220

Associated Press

BOSTON — Stipe Miocic and Francis Ngannou had a violent history of first-round finishes.

By the time their heavyweight bout reached the fifth round, Miocic and Ngannou huffed, puffed and trudged around the cage without a knock-out in sight. Miocic set the UFC heavyweight record with his third straight successful title defense, turning the anticipated slugfest against Ngannou into a methodical and masterful ground-and-pound bout to win the main event of UFC 220 at TD Garden.

Miocic (18-2) won 50-44 on all three scorecards early Sunday and was never seriously tested by the raw and unrefined Ngannou

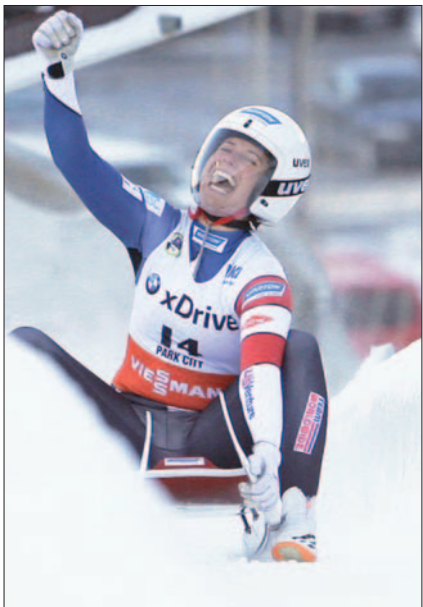
(11-2).

Volkan Oezdemir was saved from submission briefly when the horn sounded to end the first round. But the inevitable defeat was just moments away.

With a Boston crowd roaring and chanting his initials, Daniel Cormier showed why he's the best active light heavyweight fighter in UFC, dominating Oezdemir via TKO to retain the 205-pound belt.

Cormier raised his hands in triumph as UFC President Dana White wrapped the title belt around his waist. Cormier dropped to his knees on the canvas and said this fight was the validation he needed to prove he was worthy of being called champion.

OLYMPICS/AUSTRALIAN OPEN



Rick BOWMER/AP

American Emily Sweeney celebrates as she slides to the finish after a World Cup Luge event in Park City, Utah, on Dec. 17. Sweeney, a member of the Army's World Class Athlete Program, earned a spot on the Olympic team after missing the past two Games.

Charm: Army helped get Sweeney back on track

FROM BACK PAGE

She took six months off after Sochi, didn't do much training, didn't go to those Olympics as a spectator. Retiring wasn't an option, but the zest for sliding was certainly waning at that point.

The U.S. Army helped her get back on track. Sweeney is a sergeant and part of the Army's World Class Athlete Program. She needed to go through some scheduled military training a few months after Sochi. After three weeks of training, she knew she was ready to get back on the sled.

"Can't say no to the military," Sweeney said.

And now, the Olympic dream — the one she decided to pursue as a 7-year-old — is realized.

"I didn't have much doubt that she would get through this year," said Hamlin. Sweeney's close friend and longtime roommate. "She's been sliding really well and has the speed, for sure, to even contend for the podium at the games. She just had to have that confidence, she did and it's really nice to see. I went to the games with her sister in Vancouver, so I've come full circle. It's exciting."

Hamlin has had her Olympic gear for more than a decade, and that means Sweeney had to be in close proximity to all those shirts

and hats and jackets and whatever else is part of the massive perk package bestowed on those who make the team.

Hamlin can relate to Sweeney's reluctance to wear any Olympic apparel — since she subscribes to the same theory.

"Not until you make the team," Hamlin said. "I wouldn't even wear Pyeongchang stuff until I made the team. No chance. You haven't earned it yet. You can't wear the garb if you haven't earned it."

It's now been earned.

The day after she clinched the Olympic berth, Sweeney joined Hamlin and Bricher at an autograph-signing for fans at the team's home track in Lake Placid. Over and over, smiling the whole time, she scribbled her signature — then wrote "USA" in the space between the elongated Y's at the end of her first and last names.

"Lake Placid to Pyeongchang," the cards said. Had her spot not been officially clinched, there's no way Sweeney would have touched those cards.

But the quest is over. She's an Olympian.

"It's been a very long road," Sweeney said. "I've learned how to deal with disappointment. I haven't really learned how to deal with this yet."

Nadal, Dimitrov advance

By JOHN PYE
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — If Rafael Nadal wanted a fitness test in the first week of the Australian Open, he got one in his almost four-hour, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3 win over Diego Schwartzman.

No. 3-ranked Grigor Dimitrov did it tough, too, before advancing to the quarterfinals at the expense of the last Aussie in the draw. Dimitrov avenged a loss two weeks ago to Nick Kyrgios with a 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (4) win over Nick Kyrgios on Sunday night.

He'll next face Kyle Edmund, who reached his first Grand Slam quarterfinal with a 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-2, 6-3 win over Andreas Seppi earlier in the afternoon and could relax and watch the night-time entertainment.

Nadal, with his spot in a 10th Australian Open quarterfinal secure, draped an arm around his Argentine friend Schwartzman and patted him on top of the head after they met at the net.

"A great battle ... he's a good friend of mine," Nadal said. "This is the first big match that I played in 2018. That's confidence for myself ... confidence I can resist for four hours on court at a good intensity."

Nadal lost last year's Australian Open final to Roger Federer, but went on to regain the No. 1 ranking and win the French and U.S. Open titles before bringing his season to a premature end because of an injured right knee.

He didn't play a competitive match before the season-opening major, and advanced through three rounds without dropping a set.

That streak finished when Schwartzman took the second set, rebounding three times after dropping serve to break back against Nadal and level the match.

Nadal lifted to win the third, but Schwartzman didn't relent.

The second game of the fourth set lasted almost 15 minutes and 20 points, with Nadal finally holding after saving five break points.

The 16-time major winner broke

again in the next game and withstood more break points — seven in all in the last set of 15 and 18 in the match — before clinching it in 3 hours, 51 minutes.

"It was a good test for me. It was a lot of hours on court. Moments under pressure," Nadal said. "So, yeah, a lot of positive things that I managed well."

Nadal will next play 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic, who collected his 100th Grand Slam match win with a 6-7 (2), 6-3, 7-6 (0), 7-6 (3) victory over No. 10 Pablo Carreno Busta.

"I had the 300th win of my career at the U.S. Open in 2014, so this is also beautiful one," Cilic said of his latest major milestone. "I hope I'm going to continue and gather three more here."

Caroline Wozniacki continued to cash in on her second chance, reaching the quarterfinals here for the first time since 2012 with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Magdalena Rybarikova.

After saving match points and coming back from 5-1 down in the third set of her second-round win, No. 2-ranked Wozniacki said she was "playing with the house money" and had nothing to lose.

"I played really well from being down 5-1 ... since then I've just kept that going," she said.

After a tight tussle in the opening four games against No. 19-seeded Rybarikova, a Wimbledon semifinalist last year, Wozniacki dominated the fourth-round match and conceded only six points in the second set. She tried a between-the-legs shot for the first time in a tour-level match.

"I think you can tell my confidence is high," Wozniacki said in an on-court TV interview. "I tried a twener today and it went in."

Wozniacki next plays Carla Suarez Navarro, who came back from a set and 4-1 down to beat No. 32 Anett Kontaveit 4-6, 6-4, 8-6.

Elise Mertens reached the quarterfinals in her Australian Open debut, beating Petra Martić 7-6 (5), 7-5 to extend her winning streak to nine matches including a title run at the Hobart International.

Scoreboard

Sunday at Melbourne, Australia
Men's Singles
Fourth Round
Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Diego Schwartzman (24), Argentina, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3.
Marin Cilic (6), Croatia, def. Pablo Carreno Busta (10), Spain, 6-7 (2), 6-3, 7-6 (0), 7-6 (3).
Grigor Dimitrov (3), Bulgaria, def. Nick Kyrgios (17), Australia, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (4).
Kyle Edmund, Britain, def. Andreas Seppi, Italy, 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-2, 6-3.
Women's Singles
Fourth Round
Elise Mertens, Belgium, def. Petra Martić, Croatia, 7-6 (5), 7-5.
Carla Suarez-Navarro, Spain, def. Anett Kontaveit (32), Estonia, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.
Caroline Wozniacki (2), Denmark, def. Magdalena Rybarikova (19), Slovakia, 6-3, 6-0.
Men's Doubles
Third Round
Robert Farah, Colombia and Juan Sebastian Cabal (11), Colombia, def. Leander Paes, India and Purur Raja, India, 6-1, 6-2.
Lleyton Hewitt, Australia and Sam Groth, Australia, def. Pablo Andujar, Spain and Albert Ramos-Viñolas, Spain, 3-3.
Bob Bryan, U.S. and Mike Bryan (6), U.S., def. Fabrice Martin, France and Jeremy Chardy, France, 6-7 (2), 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan and Marcin Matkowski (15), Poland, def. Radu Albot, Moldova and Hyeon Chung, Republic of Korea.
Women's Doubles
Third Round
Barbora Strycova, Czech Republic and Lucie Safarova (4), Czech Republic, def. Sorana Cristea, Romania and Beatriz Haddad Maia, Brazil, 2-6, 6-0, 6-4.
Shuai Peng, China and Su-Wei Hsieh (8), Taiwan, def. Anna-Lena Groenefeld, Germany and Raquel Atawo (12), United States, 6-4, 6-2.
Monica Niculescu, Romania and Irina Begu (10), Romania, def. Anastasia Rodionova, Australia and Nadia Kichenok, Ukraine, 4-1.
Vania King, U.S. and Jennifer Brady, U.S., def. Kiki Bertens, Netherlands and Nicole Melichar (13), U.S., 6-4, 7-6 (5).

Mixed Doubles
First Round
Yung-Jan Chan, Taiwan and Jamie Murray, Britain, def. Rajeev Ram, U.S. and Andreea Klepac, Slovenia, 4-6, 7-5, 11-9.
Michael Venus, New Zealand and Hao-Ching Chan, Taiwan, def. Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan and Zhaoxuan Yang, China, 5-3, 6-4.
Henri Kontinen, Finland and Kvetia Peschke, Czech Republic, def. Bradley Mousley, Australia and Zoe Hives, Australia, 6-4, 6-1.
Juan Sebastian Cabal, Colombia and Benjamin Bonnier, United States, def. Fabrice Martin, France and Renata Voracovic, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 10-6.
Robin Bonhoeffer, India and T. Babos, Hungary, def. Andrew Whittington, Australia and Ellen Perez, Australia, 6-2, 6-4.
Marcel Granollers, Spain and Nadia Kichenok, Ukraine, def. Artem Sitak, New Zealand and Olga Savchuk, Ukraine, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 10-7.
Bruno Soares, Brazil and Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, def. Yi-Yan Xu, China and Maru Sanchez, New Zealand, 6-3, 5-7, 10-2.
Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands and Denys Molchanov, Ukraine, def. Matthew Ebden, Australia and Monique Adamczak, Australia, 6-4, 6-2.
Casey Dellacqua, Australia and John Peers, Australia, def. M. Lopez, Spain and Arantxa Parra Santonja, Spain, 6-4, 6-4.



DITA ALANGKARA/AP

Caroline Wozniacki returns to Magdalena Rybarikova during their Australian Open match on Sunday.

SPORTS



OKC crushes Cavs
Thunder tie mark for most points scored on Cleveland » **Page 28**

OLYMPICS

Third time's a charm



U.S. women's luge team member Emily Sweeney

PETER MORGAN/AP

American luger Sweeney takes long, bumpy path to Pyeongchang

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

Emilý Sweeney owns no clothing with the Olympic rings emblazoned on them. She's refused to wear anything bearing that logo, instead sometimes staring at those who were and wondering if her chance would ever come.

At long last, it's here.
Olympic gear is coming her way, and it was earned. Sweeney is one of three women on the team that USA Luge is sending to the Pyeongchang Games in February, after clinching her spot in December and ending an eight-year odyssey that had more twists and turns than the ice-coated winding chutes that she slides down to make a living.

"It doesn't feel real," Sweeney said. "I feel exactly the same as I did before."

Much like a luge track itself, Sweeney's path to the

Olympics has been long, cold, bumpy and treacherous. She lost a race-off for the final spot on the 2010 U.S. Olympic team — to her sister. She missed out again when trying to make the 2014 team for the Sochi Games, doomed in part by injuries. She's barely a year removed from surgery on a wrist that is still giving her problems.

This time, she handled every challenge.

Sweeney is ranked ninth in the current World Cup standings, won a gold medal in a sprint race in Germany earlier this season and survived a U.S. team selection process that went down to the final weekend. Her spot was clinched in a most unceremonious fashion: It became mathematically secured on a night when she wasn't even at the track, and instead was alone doing laundry at the Olympic Training Center that she's called home for years.

"She's resilient, right? She had a goal and she went for it," said a teary-eyed and beaming Megan Sweeney, Emily's sister — the winner of that race-off a week before Christmas 2009 for that winter's Olympic berth,

one where she got the right to race in British Columbia while her kid sister watched from the stands. "She was so aggressive. She's way better than I ever was."

Erin Hamlin is going to her fourth Olympics for the U.S., and Summer Britcher is going to her second. Sweeney, who has spent 14 of her 24 winters on a luge sled, is the lone rookie on the women's team.

In a sport where the Germans have always dominated and figure to do so again at these Olympics, the Americans are closing the gap. Hamlin won Olympic bronze in Sochi. It would not surprise anyone if any of the U.S. women found their way to the podium in Pyeongchang. And Sweeney, at 24, just figures to keep getting better.

"Not making the team in 2010 is one thing," Sweeney said. "It was fine. It obviously wasn't fine. I would have loved to have been there and competed with my sister. Not making the team in 2014 was a little crushing to me. It took me a long time to come back from that."

SEE CHARM ON PAGE 31